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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-207 *26 October 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Condemns U.S. Embassy Decision

JN2510211195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1625 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Telephone Interview with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League Secretary General, by Salah Salamah in the studio; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab League has issued a statement categorically rejecting the U.S. Congress decision on transfering the U.S. Embassy, considering it to be a deviation from the previously-known U.S. positions. We think that this decision will obstruct the peace process, and may undermine its very basis. At the same time, we appreciate that the U.S. Administration has adopted a different position regarding this decision. We appeal to the international community to take a clear and firm stand on this decision which violates all international legitimate resolutions, the principles agreed upon in the Madrid conference, and the procedures pertaining to the peace process that should be in line with Security Council resolutions.

I consider this decision to be a violation of international legitimacy resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and the Israeli-Palestinian agreements on the final status of Jerusalem.

[Salamah] Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab citizen is accustomed to official reactions that are replete with condemnation and renunciation regarding many international anti-Arab positions. Do you think that the Arab moves to confront the U.S. adoption of Israeli demands in Jerusalem will remain confined to verbal condemnation for the time being, or are there any practical measures that the Arabs can take to obstruct the U.S. action vis-a-vis Jerusalem?

['Abd-al-Majid] I remember that the Arabs adopted a clear stand in May when Israel expropriated 53 hectares of Arab land. You probably remember this incident. In the urgent meeting of the Arab League council I called for an Arab summit, even if it was on a small scale. The matter was forwarded to His Majesty King Hassan II, in his capacity as the chairman of the Jerusalem committee. As you may remember, there were invitations for the summit through contacts between King Hassan and President Husni Mubarak and a number of Arab leaders in order to discuss the expropriation issue. Consequently, Israel suspended the decision.

I think the U.S. Administration is taking a positive position vis-a-vis the Congress decision. It is entirely within its hands not to carry out this decision and we are following up the matter. This is the League's position, which I was eager to announce today.

[Salamah] It is known that the amended law adopted by the U.S. Congress gives the President the power to merely postpone the execution of the decision but not to obstruct it. Is it possible that the Arab League will approach the United Nations to condemn and cancel the U.S. decision, taking into consideration that only the Arabs comply with UN decisions as is the case with Iraq and Libya at the moment.

['Abd-al-Majid] Unfortunately, as we have said, the Security Council uses double standards. We regret this situation. However, this matter is not only in the hands of the Arab League secretary general. Rather, it is in the hands of Arab leaderships which take such decisions, and the Arab League is ready to support any position adopted by any Arab leadership.

[Salamah] The Palestinian Authority [PA] today called for an urgent Arab summit to tackle the U.S. decision. Is there any chance of calling for an Arab summit that would actually materialize?

['Abd-al-Majid] I think this matter needs to be discussed. The PA called on the League's council to hold a summit on 6 May, when Israel expropriated some Arab land around Jerusalem. We are ready to respond to any demands made by Arab leaderships.

[Salamah] A last question Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: A deep feeling of anger and frustration prevails in the Arab and Islamic circles toward the U.S. Congress decision, which disregards the feelings of approximately 1 billion Muslims in the world. What is the reason behind this disregard?

['Abd-al-Majid] Unfortunately, this is because of domestic, electoral, and similar considerations. Regrettably enough, for merely election reasons, the Congress decisions ignored the feelings of not only the Muslims, but also Christians, who are also affected by this decision. We regret that the U.S. Congress totally neglected Arab and Muslim feelings.

[Salamah] The Amman economic summit will be held in a few days time and it will be an international platform. Is it possible to use this summit to voice Arab, Muslim, and Christian objections?

['Abd-al-Majid] It seems that this summit will have to face this problem. How can we call for Middle East and inter-Arab cooperation and to seek peace, while decisions such as this are made. Undoubtedly, this decision will pollute the atmosphere of the Amman summit.

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League: U.S. Decision Incites Arabs, Muslims

NC2510171295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement today, the Arab League stressed that the U.S. Senate's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel clearly violates repeated official U.S. positions rejecting such recognition. It also violates the 1993 Declaration of Principles between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, which says that the status of Jerusalem will be one of the final negotiating topics. The Arab League said in its statement that the decision incites the feelings of Muslims and Christians in the Arab and Islamic worlds and undermines the credibility of the peace process, which had international support.

The Arab League called on the Arab Parliamentary Union to hold an emergency session to react to the U.S. Senate's decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Ambassador Sa'id Kamal, assistant Arab League secretary general for Palestinian affairs, said in a press conference at the Arab League today that Palestinians cannot relinquish control of Jerusalem or sign a peace treaty without Jerusalem being the capital of Palestine. He said a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region cannot be achieved without Jerusalem.

League Chief, 'Arafat Discuss Embassy Decision

NC2510204895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—At his place of residence in al-Andalus Palace in Cairo this evening, the Palestinian president received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. They discussed the steps that could be made by the Arab League concerning the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Al-Qadhdhafi To End Expulsions of Palestinians

NC2510122595 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Surt, Libya, Oct 25 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced Wednesday [25 October] he would suspend the expulsions of Palestinians and allow those stranded on the border with Egypt to return for a temporary period.

League Chief Hails Decision

NC2510171695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League today welcomed Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's decision to allow for the return of the Palestinian deportees to Libya and to give them three to six months to study the situation. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid told our radio that the decision considered the deportees' humanitarian conditions and was in response to Arab efforts. He said the Arab League is doing all it can to handle Arab issues within an Arab structure.

At a press conference in Sirte in Libya today, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said he will suspend further expulsions of Palestinians from Libya. However, he stressed the need for the Palestinians to return to Palestinian territory.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Urges U.S. To Cancel Embassy Decision

LD2510230895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2005 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 25 Oct — The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] today expressed deep regret over the resolution of the U.S. Congress to transfer the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

In a statement distributed in Jeddah, Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the OIC, said the resolution constituted "a flagrant violation of all international resolutions pertinent to the city of holy Jerusalem."

The secretary general warned that the resolution "constitutes a sever relapse in the Middle East peace process and undermines the trust in it. He said the resolution might lead to the collapse of the peace process and a break-up of the great efforts exerted to make the process a success."

Dr. Algabid urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to cancel the resolution and avoid the serious consequences that might result from it "especially as the resolution is not in line with the major role of the United States as a cosponsor in the peace process."

Algabid urged the international community to respect international resolutions pertinent to the city of Jerusalem and make the necessary efforts for the success of the Middle East peace process.

Algabid reiterated the OIC's position on holy Jerusalem, which considers it an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and whatever was applied on these territories.

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on U.S. Embassy Decision

Terms Decision a 'Provocation'

NC2510210595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the U.S. Congress decision transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem conflicts with all UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. It is a provocation to the whole world, which gathered in New York to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, he said.

At a news conference at his residence in Cairo's al-Andalus Palace this evening, 'Arafat said the decision defies the sentiments of not only the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, but of the whole world.

The Palestinian president praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to solve the problem of Palestinians deported by Libya.

At the outset of the news conference, which was attended by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Palestinian president said his talks with President Husni Mubarak dealt with the unjust decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He said the decision was announced when he was on his way from New York to Cairo. President 'Arafat said: However, I must point out that the stand of President Clinton and his administration runs completely counter to this decision and we thank them for this stand.

The Palestinian president added: I would like to remind the U.S. Congress that this decision is against all the decisions adopted by the United Nations whether by the UN General Assembly or the UN Security Council. This decision is a provocative act against the world's feelings and against the decisions of the world's countries, which met in New York on the occasion of the UN's 50th anniversary. This decision is meant to tell these countries that their decisions are insignificant with regard to the U.S. Congress decision.

The Palestinian president said that the stance by the Congress largely contradicts the guarantees issued by the U.S. Administration, the most recent of which were those signed by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the beginning of the Madrid peace talks for inclusion in the Camp David agreement.

He affirmed that this decision fully contradicts the peace agreement and the Declaration of Principles signed between the Palestinians and Israel. In these two agreements, they agreed that the issue of Jerusalem in particular will be discussed during the final stage, which is at the beginning of the third year.

'Arafat said: This was signed by Moscow and Washington and was adopted worldwide. Therefore, it is considered not only a defiance of the emotions of the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, but of the entire world.

President 'Arafat said: Here I would like to thank the Arab League secretary general for the statement he issued today. It is an important statement now. Together we studied the possibilities and steps we will take later through the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and with our friends and those in the world who love peace, particularly since we consider that this decision is, in the first place, directed at dealing a blow to and derailing the peace process.

President 'Arafat stated: I am shocked at the U.S. Congress for issuing such a decision at a time when the world is celebrating the United Nations' 50th anniversary and after the second stage of the peace agreement and the Declaration of Principles between us and the Israelis has been signed.

He added: In the name of the Palestinian people and the PLO, and in the name of the Palestinian National Authority and the fraternal Arab countries, on whose behalf the Arab League secretary general issued a clear statement a short while ago, we will take urgent steps to confront the results of this dangerous stance. We reject this decision completely.

Regarding the Arab League's stance on the U.S. Congress decision, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who took part in the news conference, said that meeting with president 'Arafat under these circumstances is, without a doubt, sad and painful because of what happened in the U.S. Congress. He highlighted his statement on the Arab League's position on this decision.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid added that the Arab League Secretariat's statement details all aspects of its stance.

He pointed out that this Congressional decision violates all previous U.S. decisions issued since the forties. The evidence for this is that the administration itself is not happy with the decision.

He added that the U.S. Administration has an established position which stipulates that Jerusalem is occupied territory; therefore, the Geneva agreement rules on occupied territories apply. It cannot be treated as part of Israel whatsoever, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the Arab League statement also referred to how this decision will effect the peace

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process. We all adhere to the peace process, he said, and hope it will succeed. We realize the difficulties before it and hope to overcome them.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said be believed the U.S. Congress took this decision because of the domestic elections. He said: These elections-related one-upmanships should never include international political issues of this level, which are crucial and sensitive to the whole world.

The Arab League secretary general stated that the Jerusalem issue is of interest to the Arab world, including the Muslims and Christians. It is also of interest to the Islamic world and the international community. He said that today, we heard a French Government statement on this subject, and I am certain that the international community is expressing its dissatisfaction with this decision.

He added that consultations with president 'Arafat continue. He expressed his belief that group action should be taken to end this unjust decision. We hope the U.S. Administration will respond with great force in this direction so that we can preserve the momentum of the peace process and so that the peace process is not hit by a setback that might destroy it, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the Arab League is ready to cooperate on this matter. He said: We will do whatever we can and whatever is asked of us.

As to whether he had received hints about reports regarding this decision by Congress, and the possibility that the U.S. President will veto it, the Palestinian president said that such reports actually did reach them and, as is known, a discussion took place regarding the decision a few weeks ago in the United States. However, we never imagined that the decision would be like this and would harm the peace process. 'Arafat wondered aloud: Is this the objective of the decision?

He said it seems that some of those who passed this decision oppose the peace process. He added: We contacted the U.S. Administration. The U.S. Administration, particularly President Clinton, has expressed a clear stand opposing this decision.

On whether this decision would postpone the peace process, 'Arafat said that destroying the peace process is one of the goals of those who made this decision. Consequently, 'Arafat added, this decision will have an impact on the peace process. He said it must be clear to everyone that the issue does not concern the Palestinian people alone; it is an Arab, Islamic, Christian, and international issue.

Regarding the steps he will take in response to this decision, 'Arafat said: First and foremost, I discussed this issue with President Mubarak. Also, this evening I had the opportunity to discuss it in detail with the Arab League secretary general so that we can make moves in all directions, particularly within the framework of the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and with all our Christian brothers and friends in the international community. He noted that as the Arab League secretary general has said, it is not merely a coincidence that the French Government released a statement on this issue. 'Arafat stressed that he will continue his contacts on all levels to safeguard the peace process.

As to his optimism about solving this problem, 'Arafat said: I am sure we will find a way to resolve this issue.

On his reaction to this decision, 'Arafat said: I am quite opposed to this decision because it contradicts the resolutions of the UN, the General Assembly, and the Security Council. It also counters all the guarantees we received from the U.S. Administration on various occasions. It is also against the Oslo agreement and the agreements we signed in Cairo and in Washington, which were witnessed by President Clinton, President Mubarak, King Husayn, and a number of foreign ministers. He noted that Jerusalem is not a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, or Christian issue but an international one, adding that this decision represents a direct subversion of the peace process.

Asked whether the U.S. Congress' decision will provide an opportunity for extremist parties opposed to peace to return and whether there will be a swift Arab move to respond to this decision, 'Arafat said yes, the Arabs will be the first to make a move, adding: The move will not be confined to the Arabs, it will also involve Muslims and Christians and all our friends and peace- loving parties in the world.

Regarding his comment on Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's decision to freeze the deportation of Palestinians from Libyan territory, 'Arafat said: I would like to point out that my brother President Mubarak took action on this issue and sent Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Libya in a bid to solve this problem. The response was good. At the same time, the Arab League secretary general contacted leader al-Qadhdhafi and talked to him in the same vein. I personally made several appeals and I thank my brother al- Qadhdhafi for his positive response to these contacts and appeals to postpone deportation. 'Arafat said: I now hope my brother al- Qadhdhafi will take further positive steps, particularly since he is a brother of the Palestinians and is concerned about the Palestinian people and the cause of Jerusalem in particular. We are facing a serious issue

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and I am sure that Jerusalem is of extreme importance to leader al-Qadhdhafi.

On the possibility of holding an Arab summit to discuss the U.S. Congress decision, president 'Arafat said: We are examining with the Arab League secretary general all possibilities; anything is possible.

'Arafat said that Israeli radio reports that a number of Fatah leaders in Lebanon were killed were untrue.

Replying to a question on whether he and President Mubarak discussed the dialogue that the PLO is holding with Hamas, 'Arafat said: I briefed President Mubarak on our overall contacts with Hamas to reach a solution in the interest of our people and their future. Regarding the occurrence at a music concert in New York as part of the UN celebrations, 'Arafat said he received an invitation to attend the concert. He noted: While at the concert, an aide of the New York mayor came to me and I told him that he should be polite and understand that we are here at the invitation of the UN secretary general and not the New York mayor. 'Arafat said he left the concert seven minutes early because he had another meeting.

Move 'Augurs Ill' for Peace

JN2610115795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat returned home from Egypt this morning. President 'Arafat described as serious the recent U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Immediately upon his arrival at the Presidential Office in Gaza, the president indicated that the U.S. Congress decision conflicts with the relevant UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions. Moreover, it counters the U.S. assurances the Palestinian delegation has obtained from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

President 'Arafat pointed out that the overall decision augurs ill for the Middle East peace process. He underlined his rejection of the decision.

Regarding the beginning of Israeli withdrawal from Janin, President 'Arafat said that this is a start, but different from what we have agreed upon. He added that Palestinian forces have not yet reached Janin, except for some officers.

The president described as significant and fruitful his participation in the Nonaligned Movement summit in Colombia and the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebrations in New York.

President 'Arafat had taken part in the UN celebrations and delivered Palestine's speech at the UN General Assembly. He also met with Brazilian officials in Brazil. Moreover, he has visited Egypt and held talks with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt at Burj al-'Arab, during which they discussed the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the embassy to Jerusalem.

Praises Clinton Opposition to Decision

JN2610083495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has held talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Alexandria. The talks dealt with the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and with the latest developments in the peace process.

President 'Arafat also met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Cairo. The two sides discussed the impact of the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

'Arafat praised U.S. President Bill Clinton's stand opposing the decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He said: The decision violates the Declaration of Principles, which stipulates that the Jerusalem issue will be discussed during the final status negotiations scheduled to begin in May next year.

For his part, Dr.'Abd-al-Majid said the convocation of an Arab summit to discuss the U.S. Congress decision depends on the Arab leaders' position. Dr.'Abd-al-Majid welcomed the stand of President Clinton and the U.S. Administration opposing the decision on Jerusalem. Dr. Abd-al-Majid denounced the decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem, stressing that the Arab League is determined to act on the international level. He urged the Arab kings and presidents to warn against the negative repercussions of the decision.

A White House spokesman said U.S. President Bill Clinton opposes the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In a statement distributed by the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, the spokesman said President Clinton believes the adoption of the decision at this critical stage of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations is a mistake. He said the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will harm the peace process.

Clinton was cited as saying that he will not let this happen. He added: I will prevent the destruction of the peace process, and it is unwise for Washington to

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carry out such actions, which could be interpreted as an obstruction of something as important as the settlement of the Jerusalem issue, which the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed to settle in the final status negotiations to begin in May of next year.

Al-Husayni on U.S. Moving Embassy to Jerusalem

NC2610103095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA official responsible for Jerusalem affairs, in Amman, by correspondent Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: First, what is the specific Palestinian stance on the U.S. Congress decision, passed by both the House of Representatives and Senate, to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] We believe that this decision is dangerous, unsound, and unwise. It will only create greater obstacles and bigger problems for the political [peace] process. In addition, it harms U.S. credibility as a sponsor of this process.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that he will not endorse the decision, but that at the same time he will not use the veto against it. There is a clause in this resolution stipulating that the U.S. President has a right to delay implementation of the resolution for up to six months, which is renewable for another six months. Do you consider this a positive point in the decision?

[Al-Husayni] Definitely. For the U.S. Administration to keep its pledges and carry out the letter of assurances that it handed to us before the beginning of the political peace process makes us feel optimistic. Therefore, we truly hope that this is a firm decision by the U.S. Administration, and that this Congressional resolution stays within Congress and does not get out of there.

[Al-Jundi] Considering this, in your numerous meetings with U.S. officials, foremost with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, did you detect any specific stance by the U.S. Administration regarding this matter?

[Al-Husayni] We have always been assured that the U.S. stance would not change and that they would not take any steps affecting the outcome of negotiations, particularly during the final stage. Therefore, we have guarantees that they will not take such a step.

[Al-Jundi] Do you think this resolution will have any impact on the implementation of the provisions of the Taba Agreement on the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, the issue is the U.S. Administration's stance. If the U.S. Administration is unwavering and honors its pledges, then I believe there will be no material damage, though it does cause moral damage.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Husayni, can you outline your future approach to gaining support for the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic stance on the Jerusalem issue in light of the U.S. Congress decision?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, we began to act before this resolution was passed. We really need greater Arab and Islamic coordination. We need greater solidarity. We need to ensure that the Jerusalem issue is not involved in any inter-Islamic or inter-Arab conflicts, or any other kind of conflict that could shake the united Arab- Islamic stance on Jerusalem.

[Al-Jundi] What chance is there contacting a large number of U.S. congressmen in order to mitigate the impact of this decision?

[Al-Husayni] There are contacts, but it seems that the weight and influence of the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic pressure groups are still too low to reverse such decisions. Therefore, all we can do is continue these contacts, strengthen our presence, and increase coordination among the various pressure groups in the hope that we will succeed in accomplishing more in the future.

[Al-Jundi] The U.S. Congress resolution has a deadline of the end of May 1999. Does this mean that the U.S. Administration has a good chance to study the situation, and that there is a possibility to apply certain pressures on Congress to repeal this resolution?

[Al-Husayni] It is being said that many things could happen before then: We could reach an agreement. Therefore, they would need to pass a resolution that is completely different from this one, or pass supplementary resolutions to keep in harmony with, or to respond to, any Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The fact is that Congress is interfering in a matter that does not concern it; and in the final analysis, it will not be able to implement this decision unless the various parties agree on it.

[Al-Jundi] Does this mean that the final negotiations with Israelis regarding Jerusalem will somehow be affected by this resolution?

[Al-Husayni] As I told you, even if the United States insists on doing this there will be no any material damage, but there will be moral damage. However, we

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could avoid all this if the United States adheres to its stance. The Arab and Islamic states must act on this so that the U.S. Administration does not face the pressure alone— pressure from Congress, the Senate, or Zionist pressure groups.

[Al-Jundi] The U.S. Congress resolution does not consider Jerusalem a divided city, but as a united city—the eternal capital of Israel.

[Al-Husayni] Yes. In fact, this is the most dangerous thing about this resolution. You know that we are implementing UN Resolution 242, which stipulates Israel's withdrawal from areas it occupied in 1967. Therefore, the issue of their withdrawal from East Jerusalem may arise. The question is what will be the relationship between East Jerusalem—as the capital of a Palestinian state—and West Jerusalem, which Israel maintains is its capital. Therefore, if the U.S. insists on having its embassy in a Jerusalem that is a united capital, it will be going against all its previous stances, the letter of assurances, and the pillars on which the peace process is based.

[Al-Jundi] Does this mean that this resolution is not considered harmful to the peace process if it does not clearly state that this U.S. embassy will be in West Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] No. If that is what they want, then they have to have two embassies, one in East Jerusalem and the other in West Jerusalem. Otherwise, they should wait until we finish the negotiation process.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official responsible for Jerusalem affairs in the PA [Palestinian Authority]: You are now speaking to us from the Jordanian capital, Amman. Can you hold negotiations and contacts with the Jordanian side now on coordinating your stands on Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] I am actually just passing through Jordan for a few hours now. But, there is no doubt that coordination with Jordan is important, very necessary, and basic to any negotiation process or peace process to which Israel is party.

[Al-Jundi] Dear brothers, to conclude this telephone interview, we thank our guest Faysal al-Husayni, official responsible for Jerusalem affairs in the PA. He spoke to us from Amman, the capital of Jordan.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

Says Vote Aims To 'Destroy the Peace Process'

JN2510150695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Senate has endorsed a draft bill regarding the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by the end of May 1999. To avert possible repercussions, the U.S. president was given the right to postpone the transfer by six months, which can be extended. The U.S. Administration has neither concealed its displeasure at the mere idea of the transfer, nor hesitated to reveal its fears that such a measure would inevitably harm the peace process.

Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, has made the following statement to our radio:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] This step is, in fact, not a wise one, and it is not in line with U.S. policy. If taken, this step will harm U.S. credibility. In brief, it is within the attempts by many parties to destroy the peace process. We hope the U.S. Administration will stick to its position and will not implement that decision or change the current status until total agreement between us and the Israelis is reached. Taking such a step will show clear bias toward one of the parties and will strip the United States of its role as a sponsor of this political process. We have affirmations that the U.S. Administration will stick to its position. We hope so. [end recording]

PNC, Orient House Condemn U.S. Embassy Decision

JN2510160595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] has condemned the U.S. Congress' decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. In a statement issued today, the PNC considers this decision a violation of international charters and norms. In its statement, the PNC adds that if the U.S. Administration accepts this decision, it would show clear bias toward the Israeli side, thus, dismissing the neutrality it declared toward the ongoing negotiations on achieving peace in the region. Moreover, the statement refers to the UN Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem, which total 35 resolutions. All these resolutions reject the geographic and demographic changes Israel is making in Jerusalem.

In its statement, the PNC warns against the dangers of this decision and its effect on the peace process. The statement demands Arab, Islamic, and friendly parliaments as well as the Organization of Islamic Confer-

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ence to undertake a serious and dynamic move to protect Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy places. Moreover, the PNC calls on King Hassan II, the Moroccan monarch and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, to convene an urgent meeting of the committee to discuss this decision.

For its part, in a statement issued today, Orient House considers the U.S. Congress' decision as a precedent that threatens the peace process and the United States' role as mediator among parties in order to achieve peace in the region.

The Orient House statement says that interference in the peace process will have serious consequences on peace and stability; sends wrong signals to those who oppose peace; shows total disregard of Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian sentiments and links to Jerusalem; and is an attempt to change and falsify facts on the ground.

Orient House stresses its commitment to the agreements signed with the Israeli side, especially those dealing with Jerusalem. It also values the stand adopted by the U.S. President and his administration toward this decision. Orient House urges the United States to reaffirm its commitment to the peace process, international law, and UN resolutions dealing with Jerusalem.

Factions Urge 'Practical Response' to U.S. Vote

JN2510172395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stressed that the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem is intended to impose a fait accompli on the Palestinians, the Arab nation, and the Islamic peoples in order to Judaize holy Jerusalem.

An official spokesman for the PFLP-GC said in a statement today that the decision comes in coordination with Israel, and warned of the consequences of the decision on all levels.

In a related development, the unified command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] also condemned the decision and urged a practical response to it. They also called for commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, and said that the decision openly violates UN resolutions on the holy city.

Dissident Fatah Group Denounces U.S. Decision

JN2510204495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a press statement, an official spokesman for the [dissident] Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah has said that the U.S. Congress' decision to transfer Washington's Embassy to Jerusalem deeply reflects the U.S. stand in support of the Zionist entity — the usurper of Palestine — and clearly exposes the real objectives the United States is seeking to achieve through its false claims. The spokesman added that this decision comes in response to the Zionist stand, which stresses that a unified Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Zionist entity, and is a natural result of the series of concessions made by the treasonous group which signed agreements with the Zionist enemy and legalized the Zionist occupation of the rest of Palestine.

The spokesman for Fatah Central Committee denounced and condemned this decision and considered it a final recognition of the Judaization of Jerusalem. He called on the masses of the Arab and Islamic nation to express their indignation toward and denunciation of the stand adopted by the United States, which will remain a source of aggression, threat, and danger to our nation at present and in the future. He also called for the mobilization of ranks for the sake of a long struggle to fully liberate the entire Palestinian soil.

Article: Senate Vote 'Treacherous Blow' to Arabs

MM2510154995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Regimes That Deserve This Slap"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Senate's approval by an overwhelming majority of a bill providing for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem, on the grounds that it is the unified and eternal capital of the State of Israel, reveals how low the status of the Arabs — governments and people, revolutionaries and conservatives, poor and rich — is in the eyes of the Americans and their elected legitimate institutions.

Coincidentally, the Senate took its decision while most Arab leaders were apologizing to one another and begging for a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton on the periphery of the UN 50th anniversary celebrations, when it was he who openly accused them of terrorism and backwardness and ordered that their peoples be besieged and starved. They could do nothing but applaud him and rush to appear on television in a humiliating manner.

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The Americans realized long ago that the Arab chasm is deep and vast, so they started to draw the states' borders, choose their capitals for them, and determine the opposition's identity. Maybe the next step will be to choose the peoples, perhaps to match the measurements of the regimes and rulers in addition to the duties of obedience and loyalty. Giving preference to Indians and Filipinos over Arabs in the Gulf is nothing but a step in this direction.

A nation that is so weak and humiliated deserves more that this. It has willingly accepted being crushed by and becoming subservient to the rulers. And here is the United States scorning both the peoples and the rulers and Judaizing Jerusalem, which is the first of the two kiblahs and the third holy place.

It is not a decision issued by the U.S. Senate, but, rather, the Israeli Knesset. Because it is Israel that defines U.S. policy and chooses for the United States its enemies and friends. The Arabs will never be included in the latter category, no matter how much normalization or capitulation they offer.

For the Senate to say that Jerusalem is the unified and eternal capital of Israel means that it will never become the capital of Palestine, and any Palestinian dreams in this connection have no support in reality. And Oslo-2, 3, or 4 will change nothing in this painful reality.

We had hoped that the Palestinian president would adopt a historic stand and hold a new conference in which to express his opposition, if not resistance, to this decision, in the midst of the United Nations. He is authorized not only to sign on behalf of the Palestinian people, but also to defend the historic and legitimate rights of this people. But regrettably, the president has not done that.

It is a treacherous blow to all Arabs and Muslims. Jerusalem is not just a Palestinian city or sacred to the Palestinians alone. And the U.S. decision confirms — for the umpteenth time — that being hostile toward the United States is better than befriending it. When the United States was an enemy, none of its administrations dared embark on such a step. But Palestine was lost when we allowed the Arab-Israeli conflict to be divided into tracks at the Madrid conference, and when we moved to Washington under the pretexts of realism and moderation. And here is Jerusalem being lost.

Congratulations to the Arabs and their regimes, armies, militias, interior ministries, intelligence organs, and awqaf ministries. Congratulations to all of them on their standing in Washington, its Senate, and its White House. They are regimes made of paper and a clamorous nation that deserves all insults. There is no insult worse than Judaizing Jerusalem and erasing its Arab identity.

'Arafat Receives U.S. Consul General in Gaza

JN2610103995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington at the presidency in Gaza at noon today.

The discussion dealt with the latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process in light of the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The discussions also dealt with U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's forthcoming visit to the National Authority areas and his meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat.

PA, Hamas Plan Early Nov Meeting in Cairo

NC2510191695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Tariq Hasan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — A senior official in the Palestinian Authority [PA] presidency stated that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip have officially told the PA of their agreement to hold a reconciliation meeting between the two sides in Cairo. In a statement to AL-AHRAM, the official said that the PA has officially invited Hamas to hold a reconciliation meeting in Cairo through Isma'il Haniyah, member of the mediation committee, who conveyed Hamas' acceptance of this invitation.

'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza, said that one of the benefits of holding the reconciliation meeting in Cairo is that Egypt and President Mubarak can help resolve the issue of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas political bureau now detained in the United States. Additional benefits include intervening with Israel to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, and resolving any obstacles that might impede the reconciliation. He added that the dialogue with the PA will start in early November. He noted that Hamas will concentrate on the issue of the institutions and on strengthening democracy inside the Palestinian entity. Al-Faluji said he doubts that the PA would be able to hold the elections in January because of the Israeli lies about withdrawing from the West Bank.

Hamas Spokesman on Confederation, PA Ties

JN2510125795 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 21

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has informed Hamas [the

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Islamic Resistance Movement] that it cannot continue with armed struggle.

Official Hamas Spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah said: PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash has told me that he cannot continue armed struggle because of the destruction of the PFLP's military structure, not to mention the financial considerations entailed.

The Hamas spokesman reiterated Hamas' commitment to resisting occupation throughout the Palestinian territories. He rejected the attempts to cut Hamas down to size, contain it, and turn it into a political party.

The Hamas spokesman supported unity between Jordan and Palestine, saying: As a Palestinian Islamic movement, we are for unity between the two countries, because it is the Israeli enemy which stands to gain from division. He indicated that his movement has always been opposed to the disengagement of ties with the West Bank announced in 1988.

Engineer Ghawshah described the confederation idea recently raised by Peres as a "dangerous plan" that jeopardizes the future of the Palestinian cause, as this plan underlines a linkage between the Jordanian state and the Palestinian population of the territories. This plan is aimed at evacuating the residents of the densely populated areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Jordan, which would eventually lead to the creation of a substitute homeland.

The Hamas spokesman said that unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples is workable, but not according to Peres' vision.

He added: There can be no unity between the two peoples before the liberation of the Palestinian territories, and before the establishment of real Palestinian sovereignty thereon. For it to be strong enough to promote the higher interests of the two peoples and not those of the Zionists, such unity must be agreed to with the free will of the two peoples.

Engineer Ghawshah denied reports regarding the possible release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, founder of the Hamas Movement, from Israeli jails, saying that the statements made by officials of the Palestinian Authority [PA] regarding this were aimed at giving the PA a facelift.

The Hamas spokesman said: There are no contacts between Hamas and its leader Ahmad Yasin, because such contacts are banned. The people who visit him are stringently searched and monitored, although figures close to the PA such as Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq, 'Abdallah Nimr Husayn, Ahmad al-Tibi, and others find their way to his jail.

Engineer Ghawshah denied plans for a meeting soon between the PA and the Hamas leadership, adding that the PA has failed to respond to the invitation Dr. Hasan al-Turabi has extended to it in this regard. He also denied there is a draft agreement between Hamas and the PA.

Ghawshah added: We in Hamas are for continuing dialogue. However, we have not dropped our opposition to the Oslo I and Oslo II agreements. He emphasized that military operations carried out by Hamas are not aimed at defeating the Oslo accords. Rather, they are aimed at defeating the Israeli occupation, he noted. He cautioned that the march of Palestinian resistance and struggle cannot be dropped, particularly since the Palestinian people have the legitimate right to resist the racist settler occupation. The Palestinian resistance is not a new development. The path of resistance has been walked by our fathers and grandfathers since the early beginnings of this century, he maintained.

Regarding Hamas' participation in the upcoming elections in the PA areas, engineer Ghawshah said: Through its revolutionary bodies, Hamas has decided to refrain from taking part in autonomy elections. He indicated that the council the elections will produce will aim to implement the Oslo accords. Moreover, its decisions will have to be approved by the occupation authorities. Worse yet, the whole Palestinian people will not be involved in these elections.

Engineer Ghawshah added: We within Hamas are for honest legislative elections involving our people inside and outside the Palestinian territories to produce a real legislative council, a real parliament, representing this people—a parliament that is not held hostage to the Oslo accords and to other political shackles.

The Hamas spokesman talked aboaut meetings between Hamas and European representatives, saying that a meeting was held two months ago with a European state which he did not identify.

Engineer Ghawshah concluded by saying: Hamas is open to all sides, except the Zionists, although there are many brokers who seek to mediate between ourselves and the Zionists and open direct negotiations between us and them. He also denied any contacts have been held with the Americans, except for two meetings held in early 1993.

Armed 'National Sercurity Forces' Arrive in Janin

JN2510130795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The vanguards of the Palestinian National Security Forces [NSF] arrived in the area of

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Janin in their own cars, wearing their uniforms and carrying their weapons, and the joint military liaison command headquarters was inaugurated in al- Shuhada' suburb, south of Janin city.

The Palestinian and Israeli liaison officers have begun coordinating the evacuation of the occupation forces from Janin City and villages that is scheduled to be completed on 19 November. The occupation forces will be replaced by the Palestinian NSF within the framework of implementation of the agreement on the second stage of Declaration of Principles.

Damascus-Based Alliance Urges Boycott of Amman Summit

JN2510191995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces today issued a political statement in which it said that the Amman economic summit, which will be held on 29 October, is a serious development that is in implementation of a U.S.-Zionist plan to reformulate the political, economic, and social structure of the Arab region. This plan also ensures the continued U.S. hegemony over the region and turns the Zionist entity into a center that has security and economic control over the region.

The statement said the summit is another step in a plan of control and reformulation. The seriousness of this summit is clear in several facts. The summit gives a strong push to the policy of normalization with the Zionist entity. The Jordanian regime is one of the most active propagators of normalization in the current stage. The purpose of this is to end all forms of boycott at a time when the continued Zionist usurpation of Palestinian and Arab land is being masked. The Palestinian people are also being displaced and their national rights are being canceled.

The Amman summit puts great pressure on the Syrian and Lebanese political positions which reject Zionist and U.S. conditions and objectives and normalization with the Zionist enemy. The Alliance of Palestinian Forces added that the call for a Middle East order and Middle Easternism, which this summit is meant to promote, aims at obliterating the Arab and Islamic identity in the region and dealing a fatal blow to the idea of pan-Arabism and pan-Arab struggle. This means killing the spirit of hope and the aspiration for a bright future for the Arab nation.

Concluding its statement, the Alliance of Palestinian Forces appealed to Arab economists, businessmen, and popular figures and unionists and all those who care for the nation's future, cultural identity, and political and economic interests to boycott and besiege the summit and work to foil its objective of normalization with the Zionist enemy and U.S.-Zionist hegemony over the economies and resources of the Arab region. The position of professional unions in Jordan is an example to be followed in this respect.

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Algeria

Foreign Ministry Criticizes U.S. Vote on Embassy

LD2510200795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria considered the U.S. Congress vote yesterday on the draft law to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to holy Jerusalem a serious violation of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry said that the move was very serious, aimed at endorsing the annexation of holy Jerusalem to Israel and was in a blatant contradiction with the Palestinian- Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September 1994.

Algeria appealed to international community and the UN Security Council to make the resolution void. Algeria also urged the competent bodies in the Arab and Muslim worlds to hold an urgent meeting and take the necessary measures.

Presidential Aide on 'Transparent' Elections

MM2510114895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Report on interview with Mihoub Mihoubi, spokesman for the Presidency and adviser to the president, by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mihoub Mihoubi, spokesman for the Algerian presidency and adviser to President Liamine Zeroual, has said that "the hitch in the dialogue in Algeria does not mean closing the door to it." And that "the duties of the authorities in this society include working earnestly to secure national accord and consensus over means of solving the country's problems."

Asked whether President Zeroual's presidential candidacy weakens the elections' credibility, Mihoubi told AL-HAYAH: "Is the decision by a president to run for president the first of its kind in the history of democratic systems? My answer is: No. There are presidents who ran for the presidency and won the elections in a state near us which gives lessons in democracy, and the same happened in several other states near us which believe they teach others democracy. So why should it be difficult for Algeria to apply what is acceptable and applied by these systems? The foundation of democracy is for every citizen to enjoy his political and civilian rights and to have the right to run in elections. This is the case with Algeria with regard to candidate Liamine Zeroual."

Asked whether he believes Zeroual's candidacy weakens the other candidates' hopes and means that his victory is almost certain, he said: First, the assertion that President Zeroual is the winning candidate is a judgment that preempts the Algerian people's will. As for the candidates' influence, no one has the right to prevent anyone from running in the elections as long as he enjoys all his national rights and is willing to shoulder the responsibilities dictated by the law. In Algeria, four citizens are running as candidates. They won out of 94 candidates after securing tens of thousands of signatures recommending their candidacies. I believe that belittling these candidates' importance — apart from being an unjust judgment — proves that the aim is to cast doubt on the soundness of these elections, the first of their kind in Algeria at presidential level. The elections "will indeed be pluralist, democratic, and transparent."

Concerning guarantees of the elections' transparency he said: "With regard to guarantees, we rely first on winning credibility through our people. In this context preparations for these presidential elections have lasted a full year, in consultation with the entire political class, national figures, and civilian organizations to seek their opinion on making the preparations for the elections. All the legal, procedural, and material arrangements have been made after extensive consultations conducted by the authorities of the transitional phase, that is the presidency.

"With regard to the guarantees, there is also an independent national commission whose task is to observe the elections and to look into any contestation or complaint that any candidate wishes to submit. This committee comprises representatives of the candidates themselves and also representatives from the national bureau for human rights. It also includes representatives from the human rights organization in Algeria, in addition to influential national figures chosen by the parties participating in the elections with the approval of the candidates themselves."

On the fact that major parties are opposed to these elections, and the effect of this on the course of the elections, Mihoubi said: "Of course we had hoped that all the political class would shoulder their responsibility in the difficult conditions the country is experiencing, contribute to enabling the people to have their say, and refer to the people to seek their opinion and judgment as regards who should represent or rule them. It is a noble democratic action which everyone should have helped to achieve."

Asked whether these election will be able to represent the Algerian people, when the leaders (Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj) of the most important Islamic party [the Islamic Salvation Front] are still in prison and the elections are boycotted by the main Islamic parties,

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he said: "I do not understand what you mean by important political parties. What is important is the people's verdict. We believe that anyone who thinks he is important should refer to the people and submit to their will."

On the cause of the failure of the dialogue between President Zeroual and the Salvation Front leadership, Mihoubi said: "We clearly announced in all stages of the dialogue the positions adopted by all the parties, those which took part in the dialogue and those which did not. We have on several occasions stressed that the main tasks of the authorities of the transitional phase include restoring security, preparing favorable conditions for the elections, and opening the door to all groups of the political class in Algeria to participate in this national action. And we have indeed been sincere and consistent in this orientation. Efforts have been made in all directions to create the required atmosphere and to secure the necessary conditions. No preconditions have been set, except compliance with the rules of the Constitution and the laws of the country, in addition to renouncing violence as a means in political action. President Zeroual personally urged and encouraged all the parties to participate in order to pave the way for real accord acceptable to all. As far as we are concerned, the hitch in the dialogue does not mean closing the door to dialogue, since it is a civilized means and method. We believe that the duties of any authority in a democratic society include working earnestly to secure national accord and consensus on ways of solving the country's problems and confronting the challenges facing it."

Egypt

Officials, Media React to U.S. Decision on Embassy

Musa: Decision Harms Peace Process

NC2510200695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from New York this evening following a two-week tour of Colombia and the United States. The foreign minister led Egypt's delegation to the Nonaligned Movement meetings in Colombia.

Commenting on the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the foreign minister said that this decision harms the peace climate and runs counter to the spirit of negotiations.

'Amr Musa added that this decision does not change the fact that Jerusalem is a subject of negotiations and that its final status has not yet been determined, regardless of the decision. Musa stressed that this decision does not greatly affect our position or that of the world as negotiations will be held on the final status of Jerusalem.

The foreign minister said this decision should not have been made. He added that Egypt hopes the issue of Jerusalem will not be part of the U.S. elections and the domestic situation in the United States. 'Amr Musa affirmed that Egypt's stance on this decision is firm, because it is harmful and illogical. He said the issue of Jerusalem is delicate and, therefore, the Congress decision will not undermine the international efforts on this holy city. Musa noted that the U.S. Administration does not agree with this decision.

Responding to a question whether it is possible to convene the Jerusalem Committee to discuss the consequences of this decision, 'Amr Musa said this is up to the Jerusalem Committee chairman, King Hassan II of Morocco. He added that an Islamic conference will be held in Conakry in early December.

To another question about Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's call to establish an Arab economic bloc, 'Amr Musa said that although this topic has been listed on the Arab League agenda for a long time, it has not yet been implemented. He reiterated Egypt's readiness to help should this bloc emerge. He denied any contradiction between Arab action and regional action.

As regards Israel's continued construction of new settlements, the foreign minister said that if Israel continues to confiscate Arab land and build settlements this will negatively affect the peace process. He stressed the need to stop the building of settlements as this constitutes a blow to peace and demonstrates dishonesty in implementing and understanding the framework of peace. [passage omitted]

Radio: Transfer To 'Undermine' Peace

NC2510162595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Moving the U.S. Embassy From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem Undermines the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It would seem that the Middle East is fated to remain the scene of instability and tension for still longer. This is despite the fact that peace and stability loomed on the horizon after the signing of various agreements — between Egypt and Israel, the PLO and Israel, and Jordan and Israel. We are talking about the bill that enjoyed the support of an overwhelming majority of U.S. Senate members. The bill, which conflicts with all human values and

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violates international laws, awaits approval by the U.S. Administration before it enters into force.

All Arab observers believe that the bill approved by the Senate is part of political maneuvers to win the votes of American Jews in the upcoming presidential elections, campaigning for which began early. However, we would like to present the following facts to all political groups concerned about the Middle East as an important region on the international map, a region influencing the world and influenced by it:

First, the peace process, which the United States in particular and the rest of the world in general helped launch, was about to reach its hoped-for end. All Middle East countries, especially the Arabs, expressed a sincere desire to reach a peace agreement with Israel on the basis of UN resolutions and within the framework of the legitimate rights of all peoples of the region. Perhaps the understanding shown by all Arab officials regarding the achievement of any form of peace confirms this fact.

Second, the bill, which the Senate managed to pass, will undermine the peace process. We do not believe that any Arab or Israeli side needs this bill, especially as the gains Israel made through negotiations and coexistence with the Arabs far exceed the gains it made during its isolation from the Arab world. That stage was represented by an ongoing state of emergency in Israel, and the Israeli people themselves fully realize this. The bill, which will pull the peace process back, will also strengthen the state of despair that is spreading from one capital to another because of the deliberate, slow pace of the peace process. The process is moving slowly despite the assistance offered by the Arab sides. All political observers close to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, whether on the bilateral or the multilateral tracks, can attest to this Arab assistance. The proof is that none of those observers asked the Arabs to offer further concessions, while all American and Western efforts are directed toward meeting Israel's demands for military equipment and unlimited economic support to drive Israel to accept the principle of peaceful coexistence with the Arabs. The latter offered everything to achieve peace and stop the continuing maneuvers to block it.

The third fact, and something we should warn against before the bill to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem becomes a fait accompli, is that the Arab-Israeli conflict was confined to a conflict between Israel and the so-called confrontation states. Transferring the embassy will open wide the door of confrontation between Israel and all Islamic countries worldwide. Holy Jerusalem is the first of the two qiblahs [the direction to which Muslims turn during prayers] and the third holy shrine for Muslims. The city has a special status. This is why Egypt asked that Jerusalem be discussed in the final stage of the peace process. Egypt was eager to reach peace first and then resolve the remaining differences in a more appropriate, more realistic climate that better meets the requirements of the peace process and the concessions it entails from both the Palestinians and the Israelis.

We fully realize that the U.S. Administration, out of its concern for mutual and common interests with the Arab world and all states of the region, has made the achievement of a complete peace in the Middle East one of its foreign policy priorities. However, we stress that the key U.S. senators, who used the bill as a way to serve their own purposes by begging Jewish votes, are swimming against the tide. No rational politician is entitled to give the votes of the Jews precedence over the interests of the entire American nation. We believe that the credibility of the United States, which is the only superpower in the world, should not be risked, put to the test, or used for oneupmanship, no matter what the gains. This is especially true if we realize that in the next stage, the economic interests of nations will be the vital, real interests. It is certain that the U.S. Administration, which reads the international files correctly, realizes these facts, removed from the senators' wild imagination.

Daily Criticizes Move

NC2610071995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has condemned the decision by the U.S. Congress—demanding that the U.S. Government move its embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem—saying that the Congress has made the mistake of its life by making this decision. In an editorial in its 26 October issue, the paper says the Congress' decision is a flagrant violation of the UN resolutions that consider Jerusalem as a territory occupied by force and that its future must be decided through negotiations among the various parties. The paper emphasizes that this decision sets an extremely serious precedent in international relations, especially as it is made by a superpower that maintains it leads the new world order.

AL-AKHBAR said the U.S. Congress decision will adversely affect U.S. relations with many countries. It notes that U.S. President Clinton fully realizes the consequences of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and its impact on U.S. relations with the Islamic countries, the Vatican, and many Christian countries, which hold Jerusalem as a fundamental holy Christian sanctity that has a special status in the heart of every Christian.

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Islamic Oppositionist Said 'Abducted' by Israel

MM2510122295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "'Latest' in al-Qasimi Case: Information About Plane That Moved Him to France"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — AL-HAYAH has learned that the Danish Government received information yesterday indicating that Shaykh Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, spokesman for the Egyptian "Islamic Group," has been "abducted" from Croatia and is no longer on its territory. This information — if true — represents the first breakthrough in the stalemate surrounding the mystery of the Egyptian oppositionist's disappearance in Zagreb in September.

Sources close to the lawyers following up the file of Qasim, who is known as "Abu-Talal al-Qasimi," have told AL-HAYAH that the Danish authorities concerned learned yesterday that a European national living in Croatia is willing to testify to the court to confirm that "a private plane" [ta'irah khassah] moved al-Qasimi "from Zagreb to France on 18 September," that is six days after his arrival in the Croatian capital. The lawyers for the Group's spokesman supplied Denmark, which granted al-Qasimi political asylum, with full details concerning the witness and his willingness to reveal what he knows about the case, which he described as "a full-scale abduction."

It is not known whether the witness, whose name al-Qasimi's lawyers declined to reveal except to the Danish authorities, is certain that the plane that moved the Egyptian shaykh from Zagreb did land in France or whether it changed its route to another country. In this context Denmark has officially asked Israel to let it know al-Qasimi's fate if he is in its custody.

The Danish request, of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy, cited press information to the effect that al-Qasimi has been abducted and taken to Israel. There have been reports that the Hebrew state's intelligence service (Mosad) abducted the Group's leader within the framework of a deal under which he will be extradited to Egypt, which sentenced him to death in absentia in 1992. Israel has not officially made public its reply to Denmark's request, which was submitted through its embassy in Tel Aviv.

"Contradictions" in Croatia's official story about the mystery of al-Qasimi's disappearance have aroused suspicion among Islamic Group supporters over its role in the issue. Lawyer Niko Duric, who is following up the case in Zagreb, complained yesterday about the Croatian authorities' noncooperation with him. He said that he has still not been provided with any official papers about Zagreb's decision to refer al-Qasimi to court because of his failure to register his name with the foreigners department. AL-HAYAH has learned that the lawyer sent a letter the day before yesterday to Croatian Prime Minister Nikica Valentic, urging him to help him to obtain official information about al-Qasimi's arrest and the decision to refer him to court.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH over the telephone, a spokesman for Shaykh al-Qasimi's family challenged the Croatian authorities to make public the file on al-Qasimi's arrest. He wondered: "If it really arrested and tried him, why does not Zagreb make public the file on his trial? Its failure to do so prompts us to believe that there is no file in the first place." He said that Zagreb "has given itself away" by announcing that it arrested al-Qasimi in the middle of the street, when witnesses confirmed that the arrest took place in the house of a friend in Zagreb.

Mubarak News Conference on Elections, Deportees

NC2510134295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Oct 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents following the inauguration of an exhibition by the Ministry of State for New Residential Communities at the Madinat al-Nasr conference center on 25 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, you visited the development exhibition today. We noticed that most of the items exhibited are large houses and apartments. What did you see for young people?

[Mubarak] If you had been following me closely you would know that we promised to launch projects for young people that are compatible with their resources. The projects include housing units and workshops for small industries. They are trying to find workshops compatible with the resources of young people and their social fund loans. They are careful not to spend more than the amount of their loans. There are many opportunities for the youth. Moreover, there is one very important thing: All these projects mean that money is being spent, labor is working, and families are being supported. This is very important. When a company employs 12,000 people for a project, this means that 12,000 men can run their homes and support their families. This is a goal we should pursue in every way.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, in a few days, candidacy for the People's Assembly will be opened. Is there something you want to say to Egyptian citizens?

[Mubarak] As I always say, if true democracy is what we seek—and democracy is not merely a word—every

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citizen must vote. We do not force citizens to elect this or that candidate. He should vote for whoever he sees as more efficient. Even if someone is buying votes, take the money and give your vote to the best man. Let us be frank. If we really want to build our country, we should do this: Vote for the person seen as the better candidate. This way, we can ultimately have a parliament that represents the people. Thank God, we do not like to interfere, even in the elections.

[Correspondent] What is Egypt's opinion on Shaykh Zayid's initiative last week for Arab reconciliation and for lifting the embargo of Iraq?

[Mubarak] We are all for Arab reconciliation. As for Iraq, we do not interfere in its affairs. However, we must look for a special formula to alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering. This is all we want. I believe Shaykh Zayid agrees with me in this. We talked a lot on this issue. We are taking that course. We achieved some progress. But the matter needs time.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, as president of all Egyptians without discrimination, what do you want from the parties in the coming stage so that we can further consolidate democracy?

[Mubarak] These parties are Egyptian. For those who contact foreign quarters I say that there is no need for that if they are actually making these contacts. I am not talking about all our parties; individuals in some parties might be making these contacts behind their parties' backs. These contacts will not do them any good. They will have absolutely no effect on us. For us, all Egyptians are equal. I do not discriminate among them. But we must protect the citizens against those who violate the law.

[Correspondent] Concerning Egypt's nomination to take the African seat in the UN Security Council instead of Libya, will this happen?

[Mubarak] I think so. Have you not heard the statement? A statement was made by the foreign ministers of Egypt and Libya, saying that we will take their place and they will take our seat when our turn comes.

[Correspondent] Please tell us about the importance of this seat on the Security Council for Egypt under the present world circumstances.

[Mubarak] If we agreed to take Libya's seat, we did that to solve a problem, nothing more. We have no ambitions for a particular seat.

[Correspondent] Is the National Democratic Party competing against itself in the upcoming parliamentary elections?

[Mubarak] In every election, everyone wants to be a People's Assembly member. Are we going to appoint 70,000 members? Whoever wins is welcome. They coordinate among themselves. Some people run for many reasons. I do not want to get into this.

[Correspondent] What about the Palestinians on the Egyptian-Libyan border, particularly after the Libyan president's remark yesterday that he would not touch the laborers from Egypt and that there are problems involving these Palestinians.

[Mubarak] We are working on solving this problem. Originally, there was no problem with the Egyptians. Only the people who go there and stay [without permits] are being returned. We maintain contact with Libya to solve these problems.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has proposed a partial solution. He suggested that the Palestinians be returned to Libya for three months, during which time a solution can be found.

[Mubarak] I don't know. We are in contact with Libya and we have our own approach to handle the problem. Thank you.

Mubarak Receives Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo

NC2510163495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening. 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani; 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, Palestinian Authority minister of post and telecommunication; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah; Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, political adviser to 'Arafat; and Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's media adviser.

'Arafat Concludes Visit

NC2610074595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0652 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning after a visit of a few hours. During the visit he was received by President Husni Mubarak; they discussed the latest developments in the region.

President 'Arafat held a news conference last night that was attended by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. At the news conference, he commented on the U.S. Congress' unfair decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and called for

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an Arab and Islamic move to hold an Arab summit to oppose this decision.

Mubarak Absent From U.S., Colombia for Security

NC2510191795 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] President Mubarak has stayed away from the Nonaligned Summit in Colombia and the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations [in New York]. Informed political sources have attributed his absence to security reasons. Colombia suffers from the ongoing war between the government and the drug cartels. Because of New York's overcrowding and the presence of many heads of state, Egyptian security sources feared security would be negatively affected and adequate security for Mubarak would not be provided. Many violent groups have issued threats against his life.

Policemen Arrested in al-Minya for Selling Weapons

NC2510212995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA) — An opposition paper published a report today suggesting that the discovery of a group inside the police establishment that was selling weapons to terrorists in al-Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt was coincidental. A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry has described the report as a deliberate disregard for the ministry's actual efforts to discover the incident.

The source said that the Interior Ministry, represented by the State Security Intelligence Service, had discovered the incident and referred it for investigation with the knowledge of the ministry's supervisory organs and in implementation of the interior minister's instructions not to cover up any deviations.

It added that the arrest of a police captain in the al-Minya security directorate who worked as a middleman for sellers of unlicensed weapons for profit was not a coincidence as the paper reported but the result of laborious efforts by the security organs to uncover crime and confront the terrorist organizations.

The security source went on to say: The investigations led to a suspicion that some policemen and officers were involved in these incidents. Arrests and detentions were immediately made. The officers under suspicion were referred for investigation with the knowledge of the Interior Ministry's supervisory organs and have been suspended from work until the examination of their positions is completed. In addition, 22 policemen and recruits from the al-Minya security directorate were referred to the military prosecution and not 88 assistant police officers and soldiers as the paper published. This confirms its intention to exaggerate and distort the facts.

The source noted that the investigation of these events confirmed the absence of any organizational or ideological link between the detained policemen and terrorist organizations. It confirmed that what happened was corruption for the purpose of material gain. It added that the ministry is adhering to its principles and to its policy of confronting any corruption or excess that harms its noble mission and the sacrifices of its honorable sons.

Pakistan Said Behind Islamists' Extradition

MM2510142195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Pakistan, Not Yemen, Extradited Islamists to Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — A spokesman for the Islamic Information Office has said that the Pakistani Government has recently extradited eight leaders of religious groups living on its territory. The spokesman for the office, which includes Islamists based in European states, said that the eight lived in Peshawar and were taken by surprise when the Pakistani authorities arrested them and deported them to Cairo. He denied reports that the Yemeni Government had extradited six members of the Islamic Jihad organization. He stressed that what was carried by news agencies or published in the Arab and Egyptian press about this issue "is untrue."

He told AL-HAYAH over the telephone yesterday — on behalf of these six, who are among the eight Islamists extradited by Pakistan — that the media are trying to give the impression that some Arab states are extraditing members of religious groups living there in order to encourage other states to take the same step. He pointed out that the six — who are Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sharqawi, Ayman Farghali Hasan, Ahmad Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rahim, Muhammad Fadl Abu-Hayl, Muhammad Ahmad Badawi, and Muhammad Salah 'Abdallah — in addition to two others who hold passports issued in Pakistan, belong to several religious groups. And that they have been deported from Pakistan, but the Pakistani authorities have allowed their families to stay in Peshawar.

In an interview with Indian television yesterday, President Husni Mubarak warned states sheltering "terrorists" that they will pay the price. He said that the terrorism phenomenon is an international phenomenon. He refused to compare what is happening in Egypt with what is happening in any other state. He said: "Egypt has had a stable central governme[illegible] for thousands of years.

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What is happening is very limited criminal practices carried out by elements returning from Afghanistan. The perpetrators are arrested immediately." He added: "We have vigilant security organs that are in total control of the situation."

Muslim Brotherhood Trial, Activity Continues

Journalist Arrested

NC2610075495 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Oct 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Khalid Salah and 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The struggle between the government and the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] has entered a serious phase as new parties have become active in the struggle following the referral of Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, member of the Journalists Union, to the military prosecutor. The union's board issued a statement on 21 October denouncing this measure. In a statement issued on 22 October, the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights also denounced this action, considering it an escalation of the confrontation with the journalists and that the government is reneging on its promise not to place journalists in preventive custody.

Airport security authorities arrested our colleague Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud before he could leave for Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish writers and authors association to attend a conference on Islamic minorities around the world. He was detained at the 'Abidin police station and then referred to the military prosecutor.

AL-'ARABI has exclusively obtained [the transcript of] the interrogation of colleague Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud. The military prosecutor charged him with spreading the ideas of the Muslim Brotherhood by publishing a leaflet entitled "Not in Defense of the MB, but in Defense of the People."

The military prosecutor asked him: "What do you have to say regarding the charges that you spread the ideas and principles of the disbanded MB?"

Colleague Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud answered: "This leaflet has deleted some paragraphs. The article I published in AL-SHA'B is different from this leaflet; only the title is the same." He accused the State Security Intelligence Department of forging this leaflet, with which he has no connection. He asked the military prosecutor to include in the investigation file the AL-SHA'B issue in which the original article was published. [passage omitted]

Journalists Condemn Arrest

NC2510152495 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 25 (AFP) — Egypt's journalists union condemned on Wednesday [25 October] the arrest of one of its leaders, a member of the Moslem Brotherhood group, and his upcoming trial before a military court.

"We strongly condemn the trial of civilians before a military court, especially for journalists and opinion leaders," Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, a member of the union's directing board, said at a press conference.

The arrest on Friday of Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, a board member, and his military trial came "because of his intention to run in parliamentary elections" set for late November, said 'Abd-al-Quddus, who writes for the Islamist paper AL-SHA'B.

'Abd-al-Quddus and five other board members called for an emergency meeting of the union's general assembly to examine a response to 'Abd-al-Maqsud's arrest and the trial of another Islamist journalist for slander.

They announced they would hold a protest at the union headquarters in Cairo in support of the two journalists on Saturday.

Majdi Husayn, editor-in-chief of AL-SHA'B, which appears twice weekly, has been charged with insulting the son of the interior minister and could face up to 15 years prison under a controversial new press law.

'Abd-al-Maqsud was arrested at the airport before leaving for Turkey. His trial along with 32 other members of the banned Moslem Brotherhood group is set to begin on Thursday.

The new trial is the second of the Brotherhood before a military court. The first, involving 49 Brothers, began in mid-September and was to continue on Wednesday.

Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Interviewed

NC2510111595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Oct 95 p 14

[Interview with Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SAFIR] How true are reports that [Deputy General Guide] Mustafa Mashhur has deposed you and appointed himself general guide?

[Abu-al-Nasr] These are groundless claims. The preachers who promote amity and fraternity among the people and commitment to these values and ideals are linked by

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ties of fraternity and amity. They fight or compete for nothing but to oblige God and preach everything good among the people. They are armed with the kind word and good counselling and are acting on the Almighty's words; "Invite all to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good preaching." [Koranic verse]. Positions of responsibility are a trust and an obligation and not an honor or reason for haughtiness.

[AL-SAFIR] How true are reports that you are against escalating the confrontation with the government, while Mashhur is for violent confrontation?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brothers seek no escalation or confrontation. They preach unity and affinity and their weapon is sound argument, kind word, and dialogue to close the ranks and establish accord. This is particularly true at a time when the people are facing numerous challenges and are being subjected to different forms of aggression. The reality is that it is the Muslim Brothers who are being subjected to dangers that vary between terrorism, pressures, defamation, and arrest campaigns. Many obstacles are restricting the exercise of their rights, rights which the Constitution guarantees for every citizen. What I know very well of brother Mashhur and all brothers is their clemency, rejection of violence and extremism, wishing wellbeing for all the people, and guarding the interest of this good and bountiful country.

[AL-SAFIR] The groups that were arrested lately are said to have connections with al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front in Sudan. How true is this and what are the limits of relations between the Muslim Brotherhood and the National Islamic Front in Sudan?

[Abu-al-Nasr] These are also outright false allegations. There is no relationship with the National Islamic Front in Sudan. What is being said about contacts and coordination is nothing but distortion and attempts to find excuses to arrest innocent preachers. It is obvious that most of those who were arrested are popular figures who have had previous experience in the elections of the People's Assembly. Many of them won membership in the previous assemblies. Hence, the arrest campaign seeks to deprive them of their natural right to contest the elections and win the people's confidence.

[AL-SAFIR] Saudi Mufti Bin-Baz has criticized the Muslim Brothers for their lack of interest in religious matters.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brothers have their literature and works. They have their ways of thinking and their methods are derived from God's book and the teachings of His Prophet, God's peace and prayers be on him. These thoughts are recorded in books and are within everybody's reach. They brought up generations on these ideals, which confirm the soundness of their beliefs and concepts and the clarity of their creed and its pillars.

[AL-SAFIR] It is being said that you have decided to nominate the arrested figures for the coming People's Assembly elections?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Running in the elections is the right of every citizen. In our view, nothing bans detainees or others from running as candidates. We accept the people as a referee and hope the others will accept them as well. Anyway, it is up to each individual to exercise his right and make whatever decisions he sees suitable.

[AL-SAFIR] It has been suggested that the violent groups have decided to back you in the coming elections. How true is this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Much has been said and much will still be said, particularly as nothing is deterring the circles which spread rumors, accusations, and distortions from doing so. Meanwhile we are deprived of any means to express our views, correct the distortions, refute the lies, and expose the false accusations. There is a news blackout on the Muslim Brotherhood's real image. Another false image is disseminated. The Muslim Brothers, however, trust the people. The people are the only party whose confidence and support the Brotherhood is seeking to win. The Brotherhood hopes that it will not let the people down.

[AL-SAFIR] It has also been said that vital documents reveal that the Brotherhood is trying to revive its erstwhile clandestine activities.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim brothers favor methods which use arguments and proof. They welcome dialogue. They are advocates of goodness, love, and enlightenment. They eschew clandestine action and pursue legal and legitimate ways of lifting the restrictions that bar them from exercising their constitutional right to carry out work that will serve their nation, promote its interests, and please God.

[AL-SAFIR] It has been rumored that you have made contact with U.S. Embassy officials. How true is this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Certain circles constantly spread reports about such contacts for motives that should not escape an intelligent mind. The Muslim Brothers are principled people. Their positions always follow principles well-known to everyone and based on God's holy scripture and His prophet's example. No contacts have taken place between myself and officials of the U.S. or any other Western embassy, or any of the embassies of the former Eastern bloc.

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[AL-SAFIR] Perhaps such contacts have been made with other Brotherhood leaders.

[Abu-al-Nasr] I assure you that no contacts have been made with me or other Muslim Brothers. All there is to it is that journalists from all newspapers and news agencies come to us. As you know they seek news everywhere and from all sources, including various political parties, establishments, and officials. The authorities know all about this. When we talk to any journalist, we seek to please God and serve this country's interests, its unity, and noble values and principles.

[AL-SAFIR] According to some people, you seek power. Some are saying that you and the Americans believe that you are very close to seizing power.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brothers are not seeking to govern. It is not their objective. They preach the word of God with their friendly advice and good example. They are committed to God's book and the methods of the early preachers. Our position on the country's issues is based on our understanding of the holy book and the prophet's tradition. The Muslim Brothers' history bears testimony to their sincerity, truthfulness, and devotion to the nation's interests. They recognize the importance of cooperation among all countries on an equal footing and with mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty. To say that the Muslim Brothers are very close to seizing power is contradicted by the facts and by the Brotherhood's outlook on government. The Muslim Brothers are occupied with spreading the Islamic call, giving advice and guidance to the public, and uniting the people's hearts in love and magnanimity to confront modern challenges and the dangers inherent in the new world order and, of course, the dangers represented by all the powers of evil and aggression that conspire against the Arab-Islamic nation and lie in wait until they can pounce on it and tear it apart.

[AL-SAFIR] Your Eminence, it is being said that the trade unions your followers control have turned into branches of the Muslim Brotherhood and that they move and operate on the orders of the Guidance Bureau. What do you say to this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] This is jumping over the facts and deviating from truth and reality. A number of facts should be stressed:

1. It is the right of the Muslim Brothers as citizens to run as candidates in any elections at the parliamentary or trade union level. No law or constitution prohibits that.

2. Since trade unions elections had guarantees for honesty, it is strange to say that trade unionists were deceived or tricked or that the Muslim Brothers have pounced on them or took them by force. The right thing to say is that cultured voters, men of science and specialists, and knowledgeable and conscious persons chose with their own free will those whom they felt were honest and capable of keeping their trust and conveying the message. Let honorable competition in honorable elections be the right course to take.

The trade union councils the members elected are not steered or commanded by the Guidance Bureau, which has nothing to do with them. The voters are more aware of the affairs of their unions.

[AL-SAFIR] The Muslim Brothers feel stronger whenever an Islamic group conducts a terrorist operation, viewing it as an instrument of pressure on the government.

[Abu-al-Nasr] This concept about the Muslim Brothers is exaggerated. It is derived from the position the present regime adopts on the Muslim Brothers; its refusal to recognize them officially or allow them to operate. This is merely an impression some people have. Moreover, the assumption about feeling stronger is groundless.

[AL-SAFIR] While you say that the Muslim Brothers are against stringent religious groups, we hear someone saying that this is the Muslim Brothers's cloak and that these groups derive their thoughts from the hardline concepts of Sayyid Qutb, who was a prominent Muslim Brotherhood leader.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood is against violence and terrorism in all forms, regardless of their sources. It is using all available resources to promote and consolidate genuine Islamic thought and Islamic views on the issues of life and this age. Saying that the groups using violence and extremism have emerged from under the cloak of the Muslim Brotherhood is a deviation from truth and reality. The Muslim Brothers' thought is crystal clear; it is pure Islam. Their approach to action and preaching is very clear and their role in bringing up the generations and promoting sound Islamic awareness is attested by reality and verified by facts.

There is a deliberate unjust campaign that targets Islamic action to obstruct it and those who call on God to prevent them from conveying their message. For your information, Sayyid Qutb was a man of Islamic thought who played a role in the Islamic movement. He had his writings and heritage. If someone is deriving extremist ideas from Sayyid Qutb's concepts, Qutb is not to blame for that. Moreover, this does not provide proof or argument that his or the Muslim Brothers's concepts are extremist.

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[AL-SAFIR] It is said that the secret organization of the Muslim Brotherhood still exists and that Mustafa Mashhur is its leader. What do you say to this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood had a special system in the 1940's, based on bringing up young people on jihad to liberate Egypt from foreign occupation, help Arab and Islamic people in demanding and striving for liberation from colonialism, and assisting the Palestinian people against the Jewish invasion and occupation. The Muslim Brothers have engaged in famous battles against the Jews and the British occupation. They backed all Arab and Islamic liberation movements and their leaders in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Syria. Their general headquarters was a center for supporting and backing all these movements in different ways. Many Muslim Brothers were martyred.

With the evacuation of the British troops from Egypt in the 1950's, the role of that special system was over. When the Muslim Brothers were released from prisons, they started their preaching activity, relying on the kind word, good preaching, contribution to all forms of charity, giving and accomplishment, and bringing up youth on amity, fraternity, sacrifice for their country, and preaching God's cannons and ways.

Since the beginning of their activity in the early 1970's, the Muslim Brothers have worked within the available limits and emphasized the freedom of opinion and expression, unity of the nation, equality among all its sons, and everybody's right to safety and stability. They condemned violence in all its forms and sources and took the side of truth and justice very selflessly.

All official quarters know this. Certainly, and before anybody else, they know the concepts and methods of the rational Islamic stream. What certain quarters promote is nothing but attempts to conceal facts, show hostility to the Islamic orientation, or refuse to work by God's law.

[AL-SAFIR] Your eminence, what principles guide the Muslim Brothers when choosing their general guide?

[Abu-al-Nasr] First of all the Guidance Bureau nominates a Muslim Brother who is regarded as suitable for the post. The candidate's name is then submitted to the Constituent Assembly, which then makes the choice.

[AL-SAFIR] Is shura [governing by consultation] binding on the general guide? In other words, if the Guidance Bureau members have a unanimous opinion on a certain matter with which the general guide disagrees, does he have to accept their view or is he free to choose another course of action if he wants?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Shura in the Muslim Brotherhood is sometimes binding and sometimes used only a guiding factor, depending on circumstances. As to the general guide, he usually sides with the majority vote in the Guidance Bureau. If the Guidance Bureau members are unanimous on a certain matter, the general guide adheres to their decision.

[AL-SAFIR] Don't you agree with me that the Muslim Brothers are contradicting themselves when they demand permission to form a political party of their own, considering that they formally demanded that all political parties be disbanded and destroyed? Proof of this is a remark written by [Brotherhood founder] Hasan al-Banna in AL-IKHWAN [Muslim Brothers] magazine on 22 July 1946: "It is time for voices to be raised demanding the destruction of the partisan system in Egypt." Al-Banna declared that political parties divide the nation and are not in agreement with the Islamic method?

[Abu-al-Nasr] In the 1930's and 1940's, most Egyptian political parties used to give their total loyalty either to the king or the English colonial power. Indeed, some parties gave total loyalty to both sides for the sake of assuming political office. Today, however, Egypt is an Arab republic presided over by an Egyptian national. The colonial power is not stationing an army as it did in the past. Doubtlessly the current political system has many flaws, but they are not as serious as those of the past when a non-Egyptian king ruled the country and a foreign colonial army was deployed on its territory. The martyr imam was referring to some political parties from that era, as we have explained. Nowadays, however, the multiparty system has tremendous benefits. Any Egyptian can join a political party or form a party of his own and express his views. This is what the Muslim Brothers are demanding: greater freedom for everyone.

[AL-SAFIR] According to some people, the establishment of a Muslim Brotherhood political party will produce several conflicting Islamic parties on the political scene that will fight against each other and accuse each other of apostasy? What is your opinion?

[Abu-al-Nasr] There is no harm in differences of views or disagreement among political parties. It is a difference of views over how best to serve the homeland and the citizens. Such a difference of views should not produce hostility and the divergent positions of the political parties should cause no fear because it is ultimately an ideological struggle that will produce a sound view accepted by the majority. There are divergent views in Islam. We have not heard about infighting among the well-known Islamic schools of thought such as the schools of Abu-Hanifah, Malik, al-Shafi'i, Ibn-Hanbal and many others. Every such

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school of jurisprudence is rooted in sound Koranic and Sunna foundations. There is no harm if there is a Muslim Brotherhood political party and other similar parties. The Muslim Brothers have a rule: "All of us can cooperate to do the things on which we agree and help each other in matters on which we disagree."

There are religious political parties in many Western and Eastern countries. Each has its views. We have not heard that they fight each other as some people fear will happen in Egypt if Islamic political parties are allowed.

[AL-SAFIR] It is being said that allowing the Muslim Brotherhood to establish a party will give the Copts the right to establish a Christian party and this will fragment the nation's unity.

[Abu-al-Nasr] We the Muslim Brothers very much welcome the existence of a party to represent brother Copts. This is for the good of all. Everybody is striving to lay down a sound foundation for justice, amity, and unity.

When will we see the day in which brother Copts have a party to express their views so that we share their feelings, know their demands, and do the utmost to enhance unity, unite views, and stand up to whatever time will bring?

[AL-SAFIR] If the Muslim Brothers rule, will they permit a multitude of parties and allow people like the communists or secularists to establish their own parties?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We do not pursue to rule illegitimately. We try to operate with all individuals and institutions under the laws the people approve. The Muslim Brothers were offered participation in the regime with Mahmud Fahmi al-Nuqrashi Pasha, leader of the Sa'di party at the time. The offer was made by King Faruq through 'Azzam Amin 'Abd-al-Rahman Pasha, the secretary of the Arab League at the time. The Guidance Bureau met at the time and decided to turn down the offer.

During the 23 July revolution, a similar offer was made. But Mr. Hasan al-Hudaybi and the Guidance Bureau saw that we should not participate and that we should suffice ourselves with cooperation with the free officers. Ruling is not the end, it is the means for both the Muslim Brothers and others. Joining the nation's specialists in establishing justice and equality among all is neither a defect nor a shortcoming.

But we do not approve of a communist party in this religious country. Such a party might bring a communist government. We do not approve of this. As we read and saw, communism denies the existence of God and terms religion as the people's opium. God relieved us with the liquidation of communism, when Mr. Gorbachev eliminated it in Russia. All Egyptian, Muslims and Copts are religious; they believe in God and in religion as an important instrument in bringing up people in a way that develops a spirit of steadfastness and force in the hearts of individuals. History is the best witness to this fact, a fact everybody knows.

[AL-SAFIR] It is rumored that there is a dispute between you and Hasan al-Turabi on chairing the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Abu-al-Nasr] There are no disputes or differences between us and Dr. al-Turabi concerning the chairmanship of any organization or body. There might be differences on methodology and vision of the age's issues and problems and how to handle them.

[AL-SAFIR] It is reported that the honeymoon between you and the Labor Party is over. It is said that the regime was behind that, because when it planned to liquidate the Labor Party, it bargained with you to keep silent in return for settling the case of "Salsabil" [computer company accused of involvement in extremist activity]. How true is this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The alliance between us and the Labor Party is based on certain principles and mainstays. Its most important goals is to serve the public interest of this country. Hence, it is far removed from personal interests. The stronger the principles are and the higher the priority given to public interests over all others, the firmer this alliance becomes and the more successful it is in realizing the goals. There is no room for bargains or deals with any quarter, since this conflicts with the Muslim Brothers' principles and values.

The alliance is firmly going ahead along its course and on a solid basis. There is absolutely no truth in reports about a bargain or about keeping silent to the liquidation of any party. Our partner in this alliance is not the Labor Party alone. As for the case of Salsabil, the honorable stance of the Egyptian judiciary on those involved is the right decision.

Libya

U.S. Senate Decision on Moving Embassy Denounced

LD2610005195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Oct 95

["Text" of statement issued by the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity "on the U.S. Senate's decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The veracity of the Great Jamahiriyah's stances and the precision of its analysis of

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regional and international conditions and developments, are being confirmed daily, as well as the alarms it has been raising regarding the threats to the Arab nation and the objectives of these threats, which it has been exposing before Arab masses and the international public opinion. [passage omitted]

While recalling the declared firm stances of the Great Jamahiriyah and the statements issued by it on Palestine, Jerusalem, and the U.S. policy hostile to the Arabs and supportive of the continued Israeli aggression on the [Arab] nation, which is currently taking new and dangerous forms that extends deep into the Arab nation politically, economically, and socially through various forms which is taking the region back to the era of colonialism, domination and dubious colonialist pacts, the Secretariat of the General People's Committee affirms:

1. The persistence of the Israeli enemy in seizing Jerusalem and the occupied territories is a blatant scorn and open disparagement of the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions issued since 1947 and confirmed in 1967, all of which have condemned the steps and measures aimed at changing the geographic and demographic nature of Jerusalem, deemed them void and unlawful, called on countries of the world to adhere to the provision of those resolutions and not recognize the Israeli measures and attempts to impose a de facto state, and [stressed] that Jerusalem was Arab in geographic and identity terms.

2. The U.S. policy confirms daily its hostility toward the Arab nation in supporting and encouraging the Israeli enemy to continue its occupation of Arab territories by providing enormous economic and military resources and political support which act as a protective umbrella for the Israelis and their aggression in a way that threatens the Arab nation now and in the future.

3. The U.S. legislation on the transfer of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem coincides with and complements the planned Israeli seizure of Arab land with a view to judaizing and changing their Arab and Islamic nature. [passage omitted]

4. U.S. hostile stances toward the Arab nation confirm daily the U.S. scorn for international resolutions, the Security Council and the United Nations and confirm in practice the non-applicability of resolutions when they are aimed against the Israelis, and the U.S. claim that it endeavors to achieve peace and maintain security and peace in the world has become meaningless. In fact it has breached international resolutions, and violated the UN Charters until it had become empty in content and lost its meaning.

5. The Arab nation is facing a dangerous situation which requires to be dealt with seriously and urgently at the level of the UN, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Jerusalem Committee. [passage omitted]

6. The opportunity is there now to take a firm and honorable Arab stance to stop any form of bilateral and multilateral contacts and negotiations with the Israeli, endeavor to expose the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance against the Arab nation, implement Arab agreements and treaties to defend Palestine, Jerusalem and occupied Arab territories, and put an end to the Arab decline and return to sense.

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds News Conference

LD2510203595 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1345 GMT 25 Oct 95

["International news conference" by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with "correspondents from the Arab and international news agencies, newspapers, radios and satellite networks" on 25 October; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Qadhdhafi] I invited you because there are a number of issues and not only one question and we might not finish them today because a number of journalists tried [words indistinct]. Try to publish this part of the news conference today to see how you publish it so I can decide whether or not to complete the news conference with you tomorrow when I see what you have published. [passage omitted]

What is the session they held in the White House and [the document] they signed? It is the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the streets of some occupied towns so that soldiers get redeployed around them and so that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is given the opportunity to oppress the Palestinians on behalf of the Israeli police. Thus, Abu-'Ammar has become in this case the chief of the Israeli gendarmerie which oppresses the Palestinian people. He is the chief of the Israeli police in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Israeli police are now resting and have reduced their expenditures and the so-called Palestinian Authority has become a mere gendarmerie organization with a Palestinian name affiliated to the Israeli gendarmerie and police.

This Palestinian Authority is an Israeli police, named Palestinian. How can you [Palestinians who signed peace agreements with Israel] deceive public opinion while peoples hear on your radios and hear what you say and foreign governments receive your news and believe that what is taking place now is a withdrawal of the Israeli forces? This is not a withdrawal from the West

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Bank; it is not a withdrawal from the occupied Arab land; it is a withdrawal from public squares and streets, and establishing control on towns from the outside. The West Bank — gentlemen [journalists] — so that you can explain this to Arab or international public opnion and so that you no longer deceive them — is occupied and will remain as such until it is liberated by force. All the agreements, beginning with the one signed in Oslo and ending with those signed in Taba and Washington, contain no reference to the Palestinian State; they do not mention the Palestinian people by name at all. They refer to refugees. Resolution 242 on the basis of which all the negotiations are taking place — from Madrid, to the White House — does not recognise the Palestinians at all; it does not mention them; it does not mention the Palestinian people; it does not mention the Palestinian national authority. One of its clauses says: the solving of the refugees' problem by compensating them or through housing them in the Arab countries or throughout the world or by granting them any nationality. The resolution speaks about permanent peace between the countries of the region — that is to say between what is falsely called Israel and Lebanon, or between Israel and Syria, or between Israel and Jordan, or between Israel and Egypt. All these countries should live in peace and within secured and recognised borders. This is Resolution 242. One of its clauses refers to a marginal thing — the solution of the refugees' problem. That is to say, if there were refugees as a result of military operations that took place in 1967, then their problem should be solved by compensating them.

Resolution 242 is a catastrophe the approval of which was a treason from day one. Resolution 383 dealt only with a cease-fire. According to Resolution 242, Palestinians would not have the right to have a state nor to stay in the West Bank or Gaza, nor to return, because resolution 242 does not mention Palestinians at all. It only mentioned refugees and refugees could be Jews. One of its paragraphs at the very end deals with a solution for refugees.

It deals with the need to establish peace and recognized borders and end the war between Israel and Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon. This is the content of Resolution 242. Therefore, approving it has been a treason from day one. All free people of the Arab nation were against this resolution and any Arab leader who approved of the resolution at the time was accused of high treason. [passage omitted]

I have the maps [sound of paper rustling] signed by Abu-'Ammar and the Israelis and the witnesses who witnessed nothing: Egypt and Russia who signed [word indistinct]. These official maps which are endorsed by signatures, expose the truth. All this area is Jericho, Jericho. The Jericho area; map number two. [last six words in English]. What have they given to the Palestinians out of this? The piece inside the red line. This is Jericho; the piece inside the red line is the only area given to the Palestinians out of all the Jericho area. That is to say this small piece has been taken out of the Jericho area; and inside this small piece there are three Israeli settlements; they [the Palestinians and the Israelis] have signed. Can you see the Israeli Star [of David]?

Look at the area of the entire Jericho region and look at the piece given to the Palestinians. They gave them a road — look very it is small [as heard] until reaching this locality — and gave them this small piece and the piece above it and between the two there are the Israelis; then they gave them al-'Awjah area. Look. Between al-'Awjah and Jericho — all this area is for the Israelis; to the north, south, west and east of it will remain for the Israelis. Therefore out of the entire Jericho area they gave them this piece and this piece has three Israeli settlements — one, two, three. These are the signatures. [passage omitted]

This is the Jericho scandal; not all of Jericho, only the area inside the red line; it is cut up in such a way — even worse than Bosnia-Herzegovina! See how they have carved it up. [passage omitted]

These is the Jordanian border — between the Jordanian border and Jericho and al-'Awjah — all this area is under Israeli occupation. To the west of it there is an area under Israeli occupation; to the north and south of it there is Israeli occupation. The areas in front of you in dots are the Israeli police and what is called the Palestinian police [areas]. A few dots in the middle of a sea; around al-'Awjah and Jericho. The rest is entirely Israeli. [passage omitted]

There are Israeli settlements which will remain forever and the Israeli Army is present on the border between Jordan and the West Bank. The Israeli army is now on the border of Jordan, i.e. between the West Bank and Jordan and there is no agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli army from there. There is no agreement signed officially by these states at all, whether the co-sponsors or others witnessing it. There is no agreement on the Israeli army's withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at all. These areas are under Israeli occupation, it is self-rule under the Israeli star.

The elections which they talk about were in a better state when municipalities were in the West Bank. They were in a better state than now as municipalities were organizing elections and the mayor was elected freely by the Palestinians inside Nabulus, Gaza, and others.

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Right now, these elections, which were a matter for the Palestinians, have become under the control of the Palestinians. This will end up in the form of local elections under the Israeli occupation for ever. This is the agreement.

You are journalists and you can ask Rabin about the whereabouts of the Palestinian state. His answer will be: There is no Palestinian state. What are you talking about? You are imagining things. He will say: When did we, or America, or Russia talk about a Palestinian state? When did we talk about a Palestinian state? Was it in Madrid? In the end, he will refer you to [Resolution] 242. He will tell you that in 242, there is no Palestinian state.

All the agreements which had started in Madrid, all the talks, negotiations and the so-called solutions were based on Resolution 242. Resolution 242 does not recognize the Palestinian state at all and does not mention the name of the Palestinians even. It only says: Israel and its neighbors must live in peace. [passage omitted]

If they withdraw now from the Golan, they must withdraw from it without Syria's recognition of the so-called Israel because Syria does not have the right to say that Palestine is Israel. I believe that the stance of President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria is based on a fundamental issue which, I believe, is based on the fact that Syria can negotiate over the Golan and accept, if it does accept, any conditions concerning them so as to recover the Golan. However, it cannot sacrifice another neighboring country as the price for recovering the Golan and say that this is Israel and not Palestine. No, no, this is not on.

This is exactly as if an Arab recognizes that Libya is the fourth coast of Rome. This must be clear and the Syrians should recover the Golan even with force because the world and the international law is by their side. If your land is occupied, and the whole world knows that this is a Syrian land which has been occupied, it must be recovered even by force. May God bless Syria which maintained peace and has not liberated the Golan by force and said [it should be done] peacefully. Good, let us recover it with peace and negotiations. Syria can stop the war with the so-called Israel and say to them: I will not fight you anymore and I am in a truce with you, I will give you compensation, I will accept your sovereignty in the region, you are God's chosen people or other things. They are free to say that but they cannot recognize that that land is Israel because it would lead to the loss of an Arab country neighboring Syria. This is not possible, you cannot say that this is Israel, you have nothing to do with that. If someone coming from nowhere occupies your land, you have nothing to do with him. Do you negotiate with him on your land? [passage omitted]

The tyrannical expansionism which the Israeli strategy is pursuing will continue beyond the West Bank and Gaza. It will reach whole Arab countries which will be given the names of Israeli prophets and we will be forced to recognize this according to this precedent. Israel means Jacob. His [Jacob's] children's names will be given to the Arab countries and we will have to accept it. This will have to be clear to the Arab nation. We would rather die [than accept].

I am expecting uprisings, revolutions and bloodshed. This has already started in a unorganized way with the acts of the Islamic groups.

Second, even without occupying Arab land, the Arab countries have the right not to establish any relations with what is fraudulently called Israel except according to certain conditions. The first condition is removing the mass destruction weapons. [passage omitted]

What is called Middle Eastern is more dangerous than the Baghdad Pact and it must be combated forcefully. The same applies to the so-called Barcelona [meeting of Mediterranean countries]. I was surprised to see that Syria was included in the list of countries invited to Barcelona. I do not believe that Syria will go to Barcelona. Barcelona is very dangerous. Barcelona is the most dangerous plot, and the most blatant interference in our internal affairs. It is not possible that Syria will go to Barcelona.

If Libya went to Barcelona, it would be the same as going to the stable of David [reference to Camp David], it would the same as going to the house of the devil. Libya going to Barcelona? What will be left of Libya's independence? What will be left of the fatih revolution, if Libya went to Barcelona. It is not possible. It will be rejected by the revolution. I am speaking in the name of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Combating terrorism. What terrorism? The U.S. President himself considers the Lebanese, whose land is occupied and they are fighting for it, as terrorists. It means we have to combat Lebanese resistance. When we go to Barcelona, we have to sign saying that the liberation of land is terrorism — the Palestinians and the Lebanese are terrorists. The Syrian will be a terrorist if he liberates the Golan. You have heard them call the Lebanese terrorists. Have you seen or heard in this world that those who fight for the liberation of their land become terrorists and outlaws. What, then, is legitimate struggle?

No. They say Hizballah is terrorist; the Lebanese are terrorists; Syria will put an end to the Lebanese

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terrorism. The Lebanese defense minister said: Those Israelis who were killed, where were they killed? Were they not killed on Lebanese soil? What were they doing there? They were there as occupiers; do we not have the right to fight them?

In that Barcelona they talk about, they are depriving us the right to self-defense. Combating terrorism! By God, that is amazing. Then they bring us the terrorism list: the Palestinians and the Lebanese whose land is occupied!

Supporting regional integration. What do they mean by regional integration? Tearing up the Arab nation and integrating the Israeli entity within the Middle East. This is very clear.

Barcelona is treason. Any Arab who goes there must be considered guilty of high treason against the Arab nation, of submitting himself to colonialism and allowing it to laugh at us.

Adhering to GATT agreement, the international trade agreement! What do we have to export? It means removing the duties from the European and Israeli goods and allowing them to enter against your will. If you join Barcelona [GATT agreement] then the Israeli goods will definitely enter the Arab countries because you signed the GATT agreement. GATT means freedom of trade. Joining means that in Barcelona you accepted the existence of Israel. We do not recognize the existence of Israel.

Logically and politically speaking, why do we not recognize, for instance, Somalia? In Somalia there is Aydid and Mohammad Mahdi. Would any one of us, the OAU, United Nations, Islamic Conference, or Nonaligned Movement address an invitation to Aydid or Mohammad Mahdi? Impossible. This is a disputed land. They are still disputing and neither of them is really in power. The same applies to Palestine. There is still a dispute. We cannot say Israel is the recognized side. We have to wait. Who said it has ended. Perhaps the Palestinians will vanquish the Israelis and the land will become a Palestinian state. The conflict is still continuing in Palestine. Hence, it is inadmissible to invite the so-called Israel to Barcelona or anywhere else.

As a Western imposition on the Arabs, perhaps. But legally and from a sovereignty point of view, the so-called Israel should not be invited to any international conference because the name itself is disputed. The land is disputed. The situation is not settled yet. We cannot invite two sides who are disputing a single piece. [passage omitted]

It is inadmissible to invite one party and it is also inadmissible to invite both parties. They say we could invite the PLO and the Israelis. This is inadmissible. This is a pot which cannot be filled twice.

The agreements of free exchange, including investment and regional cooperation. Who still trusts the West and wants to invest there after what they did to Libya, at least to Libya. This was because of a trivial accusation. Because a civilian aircraft crashed in Europe they froze the assets. When a government takes possession of peoples' money from their bank accounts, will the people continue depositing money in these banks? Impossible. Because the trust in this regime has been shaken. If we are citizens in a certain country and we went and deposited money in the government's commercial banks, opened accounts and deposited the money. Later on, when the government becomes cross with the citizens it freezes their accounts and takes the money, would other people keep depositing money in these banks? Impossible.

We have invested our money in Europe, bought their companies, equipment, machineries, stations, planes and tools and invested money in their countries and brought their companies to invest in our country and later on and due to political differences — which occur constantly among countries — they go and issue resolutions freezing Libyan accounts and banning export of spare parts for the equipment we bought from them. Which Third World country would still trust Europe or the West and still deposit money with them or travel to them or buy something from them? Who would still buy a desalination station from Europe if any political difference with them would trigger a ban on spare parts? You cannot buy a passenger plane from the West anymore. Whether you are in Singapore, Thailand, or Libya, or even Malawi you cannot buy a passenger plane because there is no trust in you. When a political dispute takes place between you and them they stop spare parts. They have banned spare parts coming to Libya, planes, desalination and power stations, weapons we bought from them and equipment used in oil industry and ships. All these we bought from them. Who would still buy this equipment from the West which stops spare parts, technical aid, and freezes bank accounts with any political difference that takes place, even with a trivial problem such as Lockerbie, PAN AM or the fabricated UTA? Who would still invest in Europe and how could they, in Barcelona, want us to invest in Europe. To hell [with it]! Us invest in Europe?! Are you kidding us? Do you think we are kids?

What does accepting multi-lingualism mean? This means that the Arabs accept Amazigh [Berber] language, Hieroglyphics, and Assyrian to take us back to the dark ages. The Amazigh language is our common language. This is the language of the Arabs who were

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in the south of the Arab peninsula. Berbers are Arab tribes which came from Yemen. Amazigh language is our common language, should we want to use it, but we cannot go backwards to the Amazigh language. What could we do with it in this day and age? In order to take us backwards and tear the Arab nation apart, they are encouraging the revival of this language and found agents and ignorant people who are giving propaganda to this language in Algiers and Morocco. [passage omitted]

The conferences which are being much publicized these days, that of Casablanca and the forthcoming one in Amman. They are conferences of pan-Arab treason, relinquishing the Arab entity and tearing the Arab nation apart. [passage omitted]

I will see whether you will publish what I am saying. Should you not publish it, then I will not tell anything about the result [words indistinct] about the Palestinians, those who are on the border, the 30,000 Palestinians in Libya and what their fate will be.

The other issue is that of Libya's membership of the Security Council. How could it enter this forged Security Council? Is this a UN Security Council? It is an American Security Council. How could Libya enter it? No way. You can stick it! [passage omitted]

Let us organize a vote in the UN General Assembly and tell them: Is it reasonable to impose sanctions on Libya or not? The overwhelming majority i.e. the two thirds will say no. These are the United Nations as they said no in the Nonaligned Movement which is composed of more than 120 states. They said: We stand by Libya and these sanctions are groundless.

The Organization of Islamic Conference, which is composed of 35 states, said: We stand by Libya, Libya has been wronged and these sanctions are groundless. The OAU, which is composed of 35 states, said: These sanctions are groundless and we stand by Libya.

Thus which are these United Nations which have imposed sanctions against Libya? These are NATO, Britain, and France. These are the United Nations. We have gone back again to the states whose forces were headed by Eisenhower.

The Arab league which is composed of 22 states and all the nations of the world stand by Libya and despite all that they say: the UN sanctions against Libya. Who is going to join this false UN Security Council? Libya rejects this membership. This is a falsified issue.

These nations of the world; all of them are with Libya, but despite all this they talk about the UN sanctions against Libya. How about the false UN Security Council! Libya rejects membership of this Council. False membership! We will instigate all the states of the world and draw their attention to the fact that there is no longer any safety that can come from the west and that the west no longer has any credibility because the west provides you with equipment and then imposes a blockade on spare parts. When you deposit your funds in the west the latter freezes these funds because of a trivial political difference. [passage omitted]

Of course, I am very pleased with the success of the blacks' procession in America. Our joint efforts, ourselves and our black brothers, have succeeded a great deal; we have become the stronger side in America. Even the U.S. President fled the capital, opening the way for the blacks' procession, which was like a torrent. This bolsters the glad tidings which say that the era of the masses has arrived; something that arouses sentiments and is breathtaking, as the Green Book had predicted. [passage omitted]

We are now leading this international drive and instigating the masses victim to injustice everywhere. I have rung Farrakhan and congratulated him on the success of the blacks' march, and we now hope that a black state is established in North America. After all the suffering and tyranny, after being taken as slaves to America, after being dragged with ropes and used as bulls to drag machinery in America, after all the suffering of millions, they acquired the American nationality. Black people have become American nationals, therefore, it is their right to take their destiny in their own hands because America is not the property of whites. Its original inhabitants are the Red Indians. All those who came to America, they have created modern America.

America is not the property of white people, it is our common property. The Arabs, Indians, Koreans, Chinese, and any person who goes to that land and lives on it for ten years becomes American. Blacks had been taken to it, moved into it and became Americans.

If we wanted to ask about who have more rights on America, the answer is: The Red Indians. As for the rest, they are all on an equal footing. The Yanks, the Blacks, the Chinese, the Reds... [pauses]... and other races, they are all the same. No one can say that the Arabs in America are not Americans or the Muslim is not American in America or the Black is not American in America. [If this was not the case] then who does America belong to? In that case, whites are not American. Let them return to Britain and Europe.

America belongs to the Red Indians, and my hope is that after the Blacks' march, there will be a Red Indian march and we will be successful, God willing.

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We, the Blacks, the Red Indians, the Muslims and the Arabs, be they Muslim or non Muslim, will have our weight in the next American elections which are to take place in the beginning of next year. We will be stronger than the vote of the Jews, and the American president will have to take account of this.

We will be a heavy weight in the elections. We would give our votes to the one we like. The one we do not like we will not vote for. These are not idle words. It is going to be a reality. Some months ago I said that and today it has become a reality in the issue of the blacks.

If Clinton continues, as we see him now, to be a good man, we do not hate him, with no black history, without bad blood between us and the peace-loving man, it is possible to vote for him and wish him success next time. If we see him disregard the Arabs, sacrifice us for the Israelis or for any other colonialist ambition, then we will give our votes to any other candidate we like.

These words should reach Clinton through you. There are neither explosives nor terrorism nor weapons nor blood in what I said. These are elections. We are exactly the same as the Jews in the elections.

The second point is Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is a lot of talk about it and a lot of deception of the Arab and Muslim citizen in particular. As if Bosnia-Herzegovina is an Islamic state and somebody is trying to occupy it.

First of all, the Muslims [in Bosnia] are as Yugoslav as the Serbs. The Muslim in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not an Arab, not an Indonesian or Nigerian. He is a southern Slav, similar to the Serbs. Croats, Slovenes, Bosnians, and Serbs are all Yugoslavs. This is the first issue. Furthermore, for your information, there are more Muslims outside Bosnia-Herzegovina in the rest of Yugoslavia than in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Muslims living in Serbia are more than the Muslims living in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is in the interest of the Muslims to stay in Yugoslavia as Yugoslav citizens equal to the others in federal Yugoslavia. This would be better for them because it is not possible to establish a Muslim state. Otherwise, if there is a possibility to establish a Muslim state we would all fight on its side.

Brothers, Bosnia-Herzegovina is for the Serbs, Muslims, and Croats. The Muslims constitute a minority there. Forty-five per cent Muslims. So, what are the fifty five per cent? Serbs and Croats. They are not Muslims. They are all mixed together, like the mixture of the Israelis and Palestinians in the solutions you have seen on this map.

We are against the oppression of Muslims. I sent a letter to Yeltsin, a letter to the president of Serbia Slobodan [Milosevic], a letter to the present of the Yugoslav Federation, and even to Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader in Bosnia. I urged them to unite and told them I was with them. I told them: If you want to establish greater Serbia this is your business, but I am against the eviction of Muslims from the land you are occupying; I am against the oppression and slaughter of a Muslim. [passage omitted]

If the Muslims want to occupy all Yugoslavia and unite it then we are with them. But they must not evict anyone and occupy his land. He should remain on his land. If Bosnia-Herzegovina becomes an independent state, it will not be an Islamic state as Muslim peoples are being now led to believe. This is because the majority are Serbs. It [word indistinct] in the interest of the Serbs that Bosnia should be an independent state, because otherwise there will be another state beside Serbia with a Serb majority. There are lost facts. Some Arab rulers support Bosnia-Herzegovina because America does; they do not know where Bosnia-Herzegovina is! I know the area; I have visited it hundreds of times. I have made a study on Bosnia-Herzegovina, since Tito's days; 24 years ago. [passage omitted]

We are against the oppression of Muslims and their eviction from their land. However, we also support the unity of Yugoslavia. If the Muslims unite Yugoslavia, we will start fighting on their side from tomorrow. If the Serbs unite Yugoslavia, we will be on their side from tomorrow.

What is really happening is that NATO wants to dominate the world; wants to dominate Yugoslavia and it does not care about Muslims and non-Muslims. Is it conceivable that America or NATO would defend Muslims. What kind of Islam would that be? By God, if America defends Islam, I would leave Islam tomorrow. [passage omitted]

NATO wants to occupy Yugoslavia [interrupted by someone asking if what he was saying is for publication]. Everything is for publication. I take responsibility for everything I am saying. You can publish it. [applause] NATO will take eastern Europe, which had the Warsaw Pact. This will be a military and political victory, and then it will take Russia. The objective remains the same. NATO is moving in the same direction which is to dominate the world.

When the Soviet Union existed, the objective was the Soviet Union. What were atomic bombs manufactured for at the time? They were made to use against the Soviet Union. They were not planning to destroy it just for fun. No, it was to reach the Caucuses to get to the iron, coal, oil and gas in Russia. The aim is still the same, and the same as Hitler's aim. [passage omitted]

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As for the workers, whom it is claimed were expelled from Libya, particularly from the neighboring countries, Arab and African countries, from Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Niger, to some extent Algeria and Tunisia. I think that Libya will not do without these workers. Libya is badly in need of this workforce. I think that these workers will return some time in the future to Libya, but in another way different from this current way. They are now working without demand, without licence, without identity and without medical certificates. Dangerous diseases have become widespread in Libya because of opening its borders for everybody. The acquired immunity deficiency syndrome [AIDS] was found in Libya carried by those workers who came from abroad. Cholera was found in Ijdabya, 20 cases were found last month, because of African workers.

I think those workers will return someday but in a different way from what they are now. Because Libya is a wide country and a rich country and its population is small, it will always be a center of attraction for its neighbors. Therefore, because of these points, Libya will carry its neighbors.

Egypt has no land gateway except Libya. In fact Egypt is geographically isolated, except through Libya. From Sudan, there is no movement or possibility of approach between Sudan and Egypt. There is a desert and the Nile valley is not a link at all as there are cataracts and no communications, even the railways in Egypt are different from those in Sudan. The British deliberately made the railways different so that a train cannot go from Egypt to Sudan or from Sudan to Egypt directly. East of Egypt there is the Red Sea, Suez Canal, the Sinai desert, and the Israeli enemy. Its north is the Mediterranean Sea. Egypt is isolated except from the direction of Libya. This means that the only bridge through which Egypt can breathe on land is Libya.

Therefore, the integration of the two peoples and the flow of goods, people and their interests are indisputable, especially conditions are ripe now. Brotherhood and cordiality bind me with brother Husni Mubarak and there is an excellent atmosphere between the two countries. Severance of labor exchange cannot exist alongside cordiality and political and personal [word indistinct] between [the two countries]. They definitely complement each other. The same applies on Sudan, Tunisia, and Chad.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes? [pauses] What?

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] [Words indistinct] We will not talk to you about the issue regarding those waiting [words indistinct] the Palestinians, the 30,000 [Palestinians] in Libya, those who are sailing in the sea or those who are on the borders. Tomorrow, God willing, we will resume the conference when we see your credibility in publishing what I have said today and peace be upon you. [applause]

Palestinians Termed Returnees, Not Deportees

LD2510141695 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has said that what is taking place now with regard to Palestinians is that there is misrepresentation, scorn for Arabs, and a disinformation of the international public opinion. He stressed that a deportee is one who is deported from his land, not one who is pushed toward his land.

Speaking at an international news conference attended by a large number of correspondents of Arab and international news agencies, newspapers, radio and satellite networks, he said: First we correct the term repeated by the media, including yours, which is incorrect, and is a major historical misrepresentation and a tune inspired by colonialist circles. Regrettably, this also concerns Arab media, which repeats what has been said by the colonialist media: Palestinians expelled from Libya, and Palestinians deported from Libya. Is deportation from your country, or to another one? Why do you forget their deportation and expulsion from Palestine? This is a return, not an expulsion. This is pushing the Palestinians, with their wish or not, to return to Palestine. How can it be seen as a deportation when the Israelis deported 400 Palestinians from Hamas, and others camping on the Lebanese border?

What did you call them? You called them deportees, did you not? They were deported from their land, and we pushed the Palestinians to return to their land. Hence, this is not deportation. A deportee is one who is deported from his land, and not one pushed toward his land. The one pushed toward his home is a returnee.

How could the media say: Those deported from Libya. This is the first point we want to correct; we want to show that there is a great deception; a disregard for Arabs; a misguiding of the international public opinion concerning what is happening to the Palestinians.

Your media organs reported that the Israeli Army withdrew from four Palestinian cities in the West Bank. This is a lie, and not true. The ordinary citizen — whom you fool — thinks that the Israeli Army has withdrawn from the West Bank. The Israeli Army has not withdrawn from the West Bank, and will not

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withdraw, except by force. This is a withdrawal from the streets and squares of the cities. The army is stationed near these Palestinian cities, and will always remain there.

There is no Palestinian state. This is what the Israelis say. Until yesterday, the Israeli prime minister used to say: There is no Palestinian state, and we will never recognize a Palestinian state between the [Mediterranean] sea and the [Jordan] river. What then was all the noise they made in the White House, where they went and signed it? [as heard]

'Militant Islamic Group' Claims Jun Incidents

NC2610105895 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] A previously unknown group calling itself the "Militant Islamic Group" has claimed responsibility for the incidents of violence that took place in Libya in June. It said that it will continue its war until it topples Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The group said in its statement No. 1, which it sent on 18 October to a foreign news agency in Cairo, that it has decided to continue its jihad until it topples al-Qadhdhafi, applies the Islamic shari'ah, and puts an end to the suffering of the Libyan people.

Morocco

King Hassan Hospitalized With Flu in New York

LD2510191595 Rabat RTM Television Network in French 1830 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Ministry of the Royal Household, Protocol, and Chancellery has made public the following communique:

After having caught influenza, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, is suffering from an acute respiratory infection. His doctors have recommended his hospitalization in New York Hospital for treatment. [passage omitted]

Sixteen Arrested for Arms Sales to Algerian 'Rebels'

LD2410195395 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Now to Morocco. We have recently heard of the arrest near Oujda of 16 people — four Algerians and 12 Moroccans — implicated in arms trafficking destined to Algerian armed groups. These people face harsh prison sentences. On the line from Rabat is Mouna El Banna:

[El Banna] These 16 people, 12 Moroccans and four Algerians, were arrested following the discovery by police of documents, arms and ammunition. However, no details have been made available regarding the nature and quantity of these arms and ammunition. All that is known is that the members of the network were in contact with Algerian armed groups; they have reportedly told the police this. The 16 people arrested, who are soon to appear before the Rabat military court, are subject to prison sentences of between five and 20 years. The investigation is currently under way, and the trial should not take place for another two weeks.

These new arrests, about which the Moroccan media have remained silent, come a little over a year after the trial — the first of this kind in Morocco — of eight other people, six Moroccans and two Algerians, implicated in arms trafficking destined to Algerian Islamist guerrillas; those arms had passed through Europe. The eight were sentenced by the Rabat military court to prison sentences of between eight and 19 years.

Update on Arrest of Arms Traffickers

LD2510194995 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Morocco, some news has emerged following the arrest of a group of arms traffickers in the region of Oujda on the Algerian border. Seventeen people who worked for the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] have been arrested, judicial sources revealed. There are hardly any more details, except concerning the nature of the arms discovered at the time. From Rabat, Mouna El Banna reports:

[El Banna] Kalashnikov assault rifles, precision weapons, home-made explosives, transmission equipment — notably transmitter- receivers — night-vision glasses and numerous documents: that is what the police seized in different caches. These arms, it says, were hidden in quarries located in the east of the country.

As for the traffickers, numbering 17 and not 16 as announced previously — 12 Moroccans and five Algerians — they are mostly small traders or unemployed people aged between 25 and 40. The lawyer for eight of them says the members of the network were arrested on 15 September, and not on 16 October as the police announced. The 17 people arrested, who are due to appear soon before the Rabat military court, are subject to prison sentences of between five and 20 years. The investigation is currently under way, and the trial should not take place for another 14 days.

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Sudan

More Than 3,000 Government Troops Said 'Dislodged'

AB2610102595 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For some months now, a fragile cease-fire has been operating in southern Sudan in the civil war between the Khartoum government and southern rebels. It has been interrupted by sporadic skirmishes and clashes, but now, the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] of John Garang has claimed that the government has been violating the cease-fire and has itself launched a big attack on a prime government target. On the line to Nairobi, Tom Porteous asked SPLA's spokesman, Stephen Wondo, what their claim was:

[Begin recording] [Wondo] Well, the SPLA forces launched a surprised attack on enemy positions at 0540 [0345 GMT] this morning and by noon o'clock, the town of (Parajog), the enemy garrison of (Parajog) was overrun and two brigades were totally destroyed. SPLA forces are continuing to advance toward (Murgery) and [words indistinct] on the Juba road as well.

[Porteous] You said that you attacked two brigades. Exactly how many men were involved on the Sudanese Government side?

[Wondo] I think there were more than 3,000 forces concentrated in the (Parajog) side intended for a western attack on the town of (Numeley). They have been struggling to get to (Numeley) from the northern sector for the last 1 and 1/2 years and failed. So, they concentrated forces at (Parajog) on a [word indistinct] soil to attack (Numeley) from the west and that is the force we have destroyed. More than 3,000 men completely annihilated.

[Porteous] You are saying that you have killed more that 3,000 Sudanese Government troops?

[Wondo] I am saying that we have dislodged more than 3,000 government troops. We have made them incapable of fighting. Some of them certainly are killed, others are wounded, and a few have run away.

[Porteous] How long did this battle last?

[Wondo] This attack started at 0500 this morning and by 12 noon today, the enemy forces were dislodged and we are continuing a hot pursuit for them northward for what ever remains of them.

[Porteous] But do you think that there is a chance that they will be able to regroup and counterattack?

[Wondo] Well, any commander would try to do that. We are aware of that and they will get a very, very, very, very, bad surprise if they try to come back.

[Porteous] You said that you have completely dislodged them and annihilated them, but at the same time, you admit that they may be able to counterattack. There seems to be a little bit of inconsistence in that.

[Wondo] You see, the Sudan Government forces have many garrisons between the town we have taken and Juba. So, I am not saying that it is the one who was destroyed today who will counterattack. I am saying the Sudan Government can counterattack if they want to do that, because they still have more forces in Juba, in Khartoum, in Torai, and in other places. They can send more reinforcements.

[Porteous] Okay, but just to clear things up, these two brigades on the government side who are involved in this morning's battle, you said that they are incapable of counterattacking?

[Wondo] Those ones are a gone case.

[Porteous] They are a gone case?

[Wondo] Gone case.

[Porteous] And what is the next move of John Garang, according to him?

[Wondo] Well, John Garang has informed me personally today that our forces will continue to pursue the enemy forces northwards as far as we can go. The war has not yet ended. The government of Sudan has stubbornly refused to return to the [word indistinct] negotiating table; so we would like to inform them that a military victory is completely impossible. The only way we can solve the Sudan conflict is to return to the negotiating table. We want the Sudan Government to get this message clear today.

[Porteous] So, this is the reason for the attack. It is to get the Sudanese Government back to the negotiating table.

[Wondo] That is one of them. The other reason is the Sudan Government has been terrorizing our civil population. We have a duty to defend our people. Our only, the SPLA's, duty is to defend our people. [end recording]

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GCC Stresses 'Stringent' Stand on Jerusalem

JN2610074595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0705 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH) — Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has said that the GCC leaders' summit, scheduled to be held in Muscat next December, will take further steps toward strengthening cooperation in a manner that would realize the goals and aspirations of the GCC's leaders and peoples. He made these remarks in an interview with AL-ITTIHAD newspaper published here today. [passage omitted]

He said that all GCC member states will take part in the Middle East and North Africa Economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman late October. He said it is hoped that this participation in the summit will be in the benefit of the GCC member-states, as well as other Arab states taking part in the summit. He noted that the Gulf states' participation will be beneficial for the Gulf private sector, especially since huge investment projects will be proposed during Amman summit. He said these projects will be financed by the Arab or European private sectors.

Al-Fahimi underlined the GCC members states' support for the Middle East peace process.

Concluding his statement, he stressed the GCC member-states' stringent position on Israel's declaration of Jerusalem as its eternal capital. He added that the GCC members oppose any annexation of Arab Jerusalem or alteration of its geographic or demographic features. He said that Arab Jerusalem will continue to be Arab, and will be the capital of the future Palestinian state.

Kuwait

Iraqi Pilot, Family Reportedly Request Asylum

LD2610093895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 Oct (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti newspaper here today reported that an Iraqi air force pilot with the rank of captain entered Kuwait yesterday across the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and asked for political asylum. The AL-WATAN paper said that immediately on arrival in Kuwait the Iraqi officer asked for political asylum and said that he was accompanied by his wife and one-year old daughter. The paper said that the request for asylum has been referred to the competent authorities and the ICRC to take the necessary measures. The paper said that the officer, who was in uniform during his fleeing from Iraq, managed to escape from Iraqi intelligence at the very last moment when he crossed over from Iraqi territory and entered the demilitarized zone, which is under the supervision of the United Nations, after being chased by Iraqi patrols. The UN patrols intercepted the fleeing officer and gave him the necessary protection.

The paper went on to say that after heated argument between the Iraqis and the UN soldiers the officer managed to arrive in Kuwaiti territory. Kuwaiti security personnel offered him food and drink and he was then taken to the competent authorities. [passage omitted]

Talks Held With Iraq on Fate of 'Missing'

NC2410163895 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 24 (AFP) — Kuwait held a day of talks with Iraq along their desert border on Tuesday [24 October] in a bid to determine the fate of 605 people who went missing during the Iraqi occupation, organizers said.

Philip Spoerri, a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which is sponsoring the meeting, said the talks on the Kuwaiti side of the border lasted six and a half hours. The two sides would meet again on Wednesday, Spoerri said without giving any further details.

Du'ayj al-'Anzi, the director of Kuwait's national committee for the prisoners and missing, said participants agreed not to make any comments before the end of the current round of talks.

Delegates from the United States, France, Britain and Saudi Arabia attended the meeting in the offices of UN observers monitoring the border since US-led forces drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.

ICRC regional head Arnold Luethold told Tuesday's edition of AL-WATAN newspaper the meeting would focus on "Iraq's responses to the files of prisoners and missing submitted by Kuwait and handed to Iraq by the ICRC."

'Anzi said Iraq so far has admitted having transferred 123 people from Kuwait to Iraq during the seven-month occupation. But he said Baghdad reported having lost trace of these people since the Shiite Moslem uprising in southern Iraq that followed its February 1991 ouster from Kuwait.

The Emirate wants to know the fate of 605 people, including around 550 Kuwaitis, who have been missing since the occupation, 'Anzi said. The other 55 are of "ten other nationalities," he said, adding that the prisoners were aged between 14 and 80 years at the time of their disappearance and included five women.

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'Anzi added Iraq recently handed over the body of a Kuwaiti man to the authorities and DNA tests were underway abroad to determine his identity.

A previous two rounds of talks, which also lasted two days, have rotated between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi sides of the border since August. Before then delegations from the two sides met in Geneva under the auspices of the ICRC. A fourth round on the Iraq-Kuwait border is expected to take place in late November, 'Anzi said.

Washington and London have demanded that Baghdad settle the prisoner issue as one of the conditions for the United Nations to lift the oil embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Further on Talks

LD2510154595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1256 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The technical committee of the Tripartite International Committee on Kuwaiti and other states' nationals who are imprisoned in Iraq held its seventh meeting on the Kuwaiti side of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border under the patronage of the International Red Cross [IRC] Committee. The National Committee for the Affairs of the Kuwaiti Prisoners and Missing Persons said in a statement — a copy of which was obtained by KUNA — that the Kuwaiti side has received during today's meeting three new replies to the Kuwaiti files that were submitted to the IRC Committee, thus making the total replies received by the Kuwaiti side so far 126. It is recalled that the national committee had handed 600 files on Kuwaiti prisoners and others so that these files can be given to Iraq. It said that the Kuwaiti side has informed the technical committee that the remains of the corpses that have been received by the State of Kuwait from Iraq are being investigated in specialized laboratories in Great Britain and the United States to ascertain the identities of the dead.

It added that the meeting, which was attended by all the delegations — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United States, Great Britain, and France, and the representatives of the Iraqi side — discussed the 19-point agenda. It pointed out that the eighth meeting of the technical committee will be held on the Iraqi side of the border area during the period 20-21 November. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

At Ta'if 'Total Security' System Initiated

LD2510132895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1244 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At Taif, 25 Oct (SPA) — Implementation of the total security system, approved by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz, the interior minister, started today in the At Taif governorate, following its success in other towns of the kingdom. [passage omitted]

CDLR Monitor Issues Bulletin No. 65

MS2510104195 London CDLR Monitor in English 15 Sep 95

[Bulletin No. 65 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The First Anniversary of the Buraydah Intifada

Wednesday 20 September 1995 was the first anniversary of the Buraydah Intifada in Saudi Arabia. Sources close to CDLR review the events.

It is one year since the Buraydah Intifada. A year of events and changes which have altered the face of the Arab peninsula. The events which have taken place over the past year were more than those which occurred over the past half century.

Thousands of bodies have been incarcerated in al-Sa'ud's prisons but millions of minds have been freed from al-Sa'ud's slavery and have discovered their deceit.

One year was enough to totally demolish al-Sa'ud's claimed legitimacy, and to destroy the aura of holiness they have given themselves. There is now nothing left for the regime except the use of terror via the security and intelligence services.

The people's fear of the regime of al-Sa'ud has always been present, but in the past this fear was mixed with some respect for their authority, and certain classes of society appreciated them.

This was mainly because the people, regardless of the tyranny and injustice of the regime, still saw them as the icons that kept the country together. This past year, however, has seen the respect and appreciation vanish, because in that year the regime has been totally exposed. The regime was prepared to sacrifice the Nation in order to remain as the ultimate, unquestionable power that would never allow any participation or criticism under any circumstances. The case was not al-Sa'ud's fears for their monarchy, because the monarchy was not in danger, the problem was the "Pharaonic Phenomena" of our rulers feeling that they are the owners of the land and everything on it.

During the year, the Nation realised that those "Pharaohs" (al-Sa'ud) have no conscience about their

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actions against the people. All they care about is to remain the "gods" of the people, and that which they see as right, is right. There is no other guidance except theirs. Al-Sa'ud would not allow the body or mind of any citizen to escape from their personal authority. How did al-Sa'ud make up their minds to confront the people and to continue their project of oppression and terrorism, when they see that the challenge of the Committee and the reputations of the imprisoned scholars are increasing every day?

Have al-Sa'ud actually calculated the risks of their present actions, the reality of the opposition and the reality of the state? Have they thought about the political reality and its challenges, as well as the troubled economic situation? Have they studied their strengths and weaknesses, and the actuality of their position? Have they considered the social changes and the awakening of the people?

Haven't al-Sa'ud realised that with the technology available today and world-wide communication revolution, there are no secrets that can be hidden forever? Their actions do not suggest that al-Sa'ud have given even the slightest thought to the above questions. It is evident that not one of them can see past the end of his nose and consequently their decisions are purely reactions to events, all coming from their feelings of dominance and mastery. Their decisions and instructions have increased the circle of animosity amongst all classes and levels of society. This animosity and confrontation coming from the regime, which is projected towards the Committee in London, is understandable because the Committee represents a free, clear, frank voice in opposition to the regime.

However, when the regime assaults the houses of scholars of the calibre of Shaykhs Safar and Salman, and many others, regardless of their names, status, tribal affiliations etc, then the regime brings upon itself the hatred of the people and the society as a whole. In the past, the regime has been more cautious, but over the last year al-Sa'ud have been targeting people on suspicion, and even people who simply hesitated to praise the regime have found themselves to be al-Sa'ud's enemies. Therefore, people who were not actually arrested, found themselves sacked or transferred in their jobs.

Scores of scholars, intellectuals and professors suffered under al-Sa'ud's actions in this area. Recently a number of judges also found themselves sacked, which in essence increases the number of enemies for the regime, and encourages those previously hesitant, to take a stand with the opposition. The regime did not hesitate to spill blood in order to fulfil their threats.

During the year, the regime believed that they would extract the Islamic activity or even any other activity that opposes tyranny and injustice from the roots.

Al-Sa'ud felt that by the use of arrests, torture, spying and bribing, they would succeed in isolating the Nation from its leaders, scholars and reformers, and therefore isolate the Nation from the Committee.

Al-Sa'ud hoped that the Nation had been well trained and disciplined, and that the Committee and the Reform movement were only supported by a very limited number of people who could be easily destroyed and thus the problem dealt with. al-Sa'ud cannot believe that the whole reform movement, distribution, publications, faxes, copying, word of mouth etc. were all actually the initiative of the people, and that what is lying in wait in the future will be even greater.

The regime cannot comprehend events when they see that the results are actually contrary to their plans. For example, despite the thousands that have been arrested, and the transformation of the country into a vast prison for over a year now, the people are still exchanging news of the Committee and its publication. Some citizens even issue their own bulletins and communiques within the country, and have distributed their publications to great effect.

Despite all the attempts of the Government to follow whoever communicates with the Committee, the Nation is stronger than ever. The news of the country and its society comes to and from the Committee with great intensity.

There is one more clarification to be made to those who are impatient for victory, and that is that time is on their side and in their favour. They should not underestimate the important gains of the previous year, because the changing of the Nation's convictions is not something to be taken lightly.

It is very important to prepare the Nation ideologically, and to move the society in the right direction for change. Something such as this cannot be achieved without properly convincing arguments that will change people to the side of the reform movement.

One year in the Nation's time is not long, but the previous year is equivalent, in our opinion, to around 20 years. We feel that change is not far off, and the present waits for a huge initiative to awaken the sleeping volcano within the Nation.

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News

The Turn of the Judges

Al-Sa'ud have widened their campaign of sackings and transfers of preachers and university professors to include a number of judges who are suspected of sympathising with the reform movement.

According to the information we have received, Shaykh and Judge Sa'ud al-Shuraim was sacked from his position. Orders were also issued to transfer Shaykh Sulayman Ibn-Muhammed al-Mohanna, the deputy of the head of Mecca Court, to al-Ta'if, and Shaykh al-'Umayjan from al-I'iyjah to Sudayr. We have also learned that Shaykh and Dr. Sa'ad 'Abdullah Ibn-Humayd was sacked from his teaching post in Al Imam University.

Confirmation

In the previous bulletin, we mentioned that the authorities had forged a letter in the name of a number of reputable Shaykhs, who have condemned, in the strongest terms, this abhorrent crime committed by the authority. Amongst those Shaykhs who declared their position in a very clear manner with regard to the forgery are Shaykh Hamood al-Uqla, Shaykh Sulayman al-Buti, Shaykh 'Abdullah Al Jar'awi and others.

The Lambs of the Prince's Cronies

The prince [amir] of al-'Asir region, Khalid al-Faysal, received a sarcastic letter which stated, "We appeal to you to make us equal to your cronies' sheep in the Tihama area". The letter described how the sheep belonging to the Prince's henchmen enjoyed the comforts of electricity in that area, whilst in certain areas of Tihama the people still consider electricity to be a "miracle" due to the complete lack of this utility!

Warning from the Dignitaries of al-Jowf

We have been requested by dignitaries and important citizens of al-Jowf to confirm that which was published in al-Jowf bulletin. We repeat the warning to people about donating money to the al-Birr Organisation, because it has been proved that the money of the organisation is spent on the local government's civil servants.

We appeal to the public to boycott those government-run charity organisations throughout the Kingdom, as they disperse the donations in a decidedly "dodgy" manner!

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Askar the Courageous Henchman

It would seem that 'Abd-al-Aziz al'Askar, a teacher in Al Imam University and an Imam of Al Khalidiyyah mosque, is the only 'intelligence' Shaykh 'courageous' enough to slander the reformers publicly from the pulpit of the mosque, and on the pages of newspapers. Al-'Askar was the only one who called for the beheading of Shaykhs Salman and Safar, and continues his open slander.

Until recently, he gave a speech to justify the government's murder of al-Hudhayf, in which he explained the legality of al-Hudhayf's beheading according to the Islam of al-Sa'ud. al-'Askar considered this murder to be a good deed and an act of holy justice.

He then raged an attack on human rights organisations who criticised the murder, and called such organisations "infidel, atheist fronts".

Al-'Askar conveniently forgot that his masters are proud of their total commitment to international law and organisations. Therefore, we would advise the poor "officer Shaykh" not to get too carried away with his statements.

Why the Councils Minister was Left Out

Information has been leaked to the Committee regarding the reason behind omitting Dr. Muhammed Al Shaykh from his previous post as Council Minister after the recent reshuffle. It would appear that the reason for this was due to his strong stand against Sultan's confiscation of huge areas of land in Riyadh, Jeddah and Mecca, as well as against Nayif's confiscation of another huge area of land in Rabegh. Another reason behind the Minister's leaving was his strong personality and good performance in the Council's ministry.

The Prince's Farm

After the authorisation for lighting up the road between the Al Bukayriyyah and Al Rass areas, and after designating the necessary budget for the project, Sultan gave his instructions to transfer the project to his farm near Al Qasim airport to provide his farm with light. Sultan's farm would appear to be considered more deserving of such a service!

Spies In Primary Schools

With a direct personal order from Nayif, an intelligence officer, 'Abd-al Zaffar al-Qarni, was appointed as a teacher in al-Hudaybiyyah Primary School in Riyadh, in order for him to monitor the children of 'Abdullah al-Hudhayf, who study in that school. The education minister, officials in the Ministry of Education, and the

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school, were astonished when they were all by-passed and al-Qarni was appointed at the request of Nayif.

Top Secret

The Islamic Affairs Minister, Dr. 'Abdullah Turki, issued an urgent, top secret letter, which states, "All area administrations must immediately begin to remove around 50 per cent of foreign Imams over the next three months, and to sack the remaining 50 per cent in the following three months. The managers of the branches must present lists of the names of the sacked Imams to the ministry each month". The problem is that most of those targeted with sacking have lived most of their lives in the Kingdom and gained their qualifications there.

An Appeal

On behalf of its scholars, intellectuals and leaders of reform, we appeal to the Nation to participate in the revival of the anniversary of Buraydah's Intifada, republishing the material published during the days of the Intifada.

Yemen

Vice President Addresses UN, Supports Reforms

JN2510214395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Staff Major General Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is leading Yemen's delegation to the celebrations marking the United Nations' 50th anniversary in New York, has delivered Yemen's address. He stressed the Republic of Yemen's support for UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali's efforts to maintain international security and peace. He emphasized the importance of the concepts contained in the two documents on peace and development. He said that our country supports the process of reforming the United Nations and restructuring its main agencies in harmony with the needs of the member states, the new world changes, and in preparation for the tasks that will be assigned to it in the 21st century.

The brother vice president said: We are called upon to confront the new racist policies which resort to force to achieve expansionist gains through ethnic cleansing, accompanied by killing and destruction in contravention with justice and morality.

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UN Mission Statement Urges Reform of UN Structures

JN2510161995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 25 Oct (INA) — Iraq has asserted that five years after the end of the Cold War and the emergence of unipolarity, the interests of the international community require that UN structures be reformed, its work mechanisms be activated, and its democratic representation be broadened.

In a statement marking the UN 50th anniversary released by Iraq's mission to the international organization at dawn today, Iraq said it is not optimistic about the formulas of international relations that emerged after the end of the Cold War. Over the past five years, many armed conflicts have erupted due to racist, ethnic, and religious differences.

The statement drew the attention of the international family to attempts to encourage the phenomenon of the disintegration of states under the pretext of freedom of choice. Some influential forces have deliberately and openly sought to deepen the disintegration of states to achieve their personal interests and tighten their grip on the world.

Iraq highlighted the characteristics of the international economy in the new era. There has been a conspicuous difference between the countries of the north and the south. In addition, there has been no economic security. Under the previous world order, economic security was not apparent because of the nature of the components of that order.

The disintegration of nations created new economic problems and deepened the conflict of interests, based on the exclusive possession of wealth by some influential forces.

The statement added that in the social arena, new conflicts emerged, not to mention the inherited problems. There emerged an international trend that seeks to generalize the values and principles of a particular culture and discard the cultural concepts espoused by other nations that have an independent deep-rooted cultural heritage.

In its statement, Iraq noted that those conflicts also emerged in the theoretical and conceptual fields, as well as concerning issues related to demography, women, religion, penal codes, human rights, democracy, social development, and even commitment to the preservation of the environment and disarmament.

Iraq pointed out that international relations have witnessed political development as a result of the emergence of unipolarity. Iraq said that the superpower's exercise of hegemony under the pretext of its leadership role has become a constant course in its policy, with all what that means in terms of negative consequences, such as double standards, tyrannical stands, and unilateral interpretations which contradict the adopted resolutions and rules.

Discussing the exploitation of the United Nations as a means to achieve unilateral interests, the statement said that the advocates of the policy of hegemony have heavily exploited the mechanisms of the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council, to achieve their unilateral interests.

Iraq referred to the U.S. Administration's acknowledgment of its exploitation of the United Nations to achieve its political objectives, noting in this regard statements by James Baker, U.S. secretary of state during the 30-state aggression, in a seminar on the aggression at the Republican institute on 21 June 1995. Baker said: "It is imperative for the United States to use all instruments at its disposal. During the Gulf crisis, those included unilateral measures. For example, we froze the Iraqi assets in this country, established a temporary coalition, and used the United Nations."

Baker continued: "Let me make one point very clear. Our use of the United Nations was not motivated by a conspicuous commitment to multilateral relations. Rather, it was prompted by a recognition of the United Nations as a means to be utilized by the U.S. leadership. I believe that we should always remember that for the U.S. foreign policy, the United Nations is nothing but a means rather than an end. I am pleased to say that we used the United Nations as we should have. I believe that the bulk of our success is attributed to that use."

Iraq also stressed as true the world's fear of the U.S. behavior in the international arena—a fear which was also expressed by Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, the inheritor of one of the two poles of the Cold War.

During a meeting of the UN Security Council on 26 September, Kozyrev said that attempts by one state or a group of states to monopolize the settlement of international problems, to use double standards by dividing the world into friends and foes, and to wager on military alliances rather than strengthening the United Nations may be more dangerous to world safety and to the Security Council's mission than the Cold War itself. Leadership is required not to impose old policies under new circumstances but to overcome the bloc mentality, to establish ties on equal footing, and to improve ways to maintain a strong United Nations.

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Iraq also asserted that what also increases the negative results of the big powers' unipolarity is that these powers are making the United Nations, which the international community wants to protect humanity, a source of disasters because of the hasty implementation of Paragraph 7 of the Sanctions Charter, the use of armed force, and the extremist interpretation of the charter. What has increased the negative impact of this trend even more is the abuse of power, which amounted in cases like Iraq to attempts to change the political regimes of states.

The statement also said: Out of our own experience, we notice that sanctions are imposed without studying their short-term and long-term economic, social, moral, and psychological impact on peoples, particularly poor sectors of the population.

In its statement, Iraq said: Commitment to our pledges in the UN Charter should be manifested in shouldering our responsibilities to overcome problems and rectify the courses of action in a manner that would serve the common interests of all international community members. Iraq pointed out that topping the priority list of joint action in this regard, is the quest for activating democracy and team work in the decisionmaking process and in the work methods of the United Nation and its main bodies. Among these priorities also, is adherence to the goals and principles of this charter without overlooking the basic fact that the United Nations is a world organization that aims at achieving international peace and security.

Iraq also urged action in this direction so that this organization would be an instrument for a peaceful settlement of disputes and not for rushing to use coercive means such as armed force and sanctions.

The statement said: It is our duty to realize the importance of giving a greater role to judicial means of peaceful settlements, as viewed from a new perspective, and to resort to these means more often in defining the elements of the legal settlement of differences, or in interpreting the provisions of relevant resolutions in order to prevent the tyranny of influential powers when they decide to adopt political methods in particular.

Iraq demanded that coercive measures should not be used as a means to deprive peoples of their basic rights to nutrition, medicine, education, labor, and development. Consequently, it is necessary to define precisely not only the terms of imposing sanctions, but also the terms and timeframes for reducing these sanctions and lifting them. Moreover, there should be accurate calculations of the suitable means of sparing civilians in the target country as well as in any third country their negative repercussions while they are in effect. Otherwise, the sanctions will become an end in themselves to seek revenge.

Iraq stressed that the achievement of that goal requires a review of the structure and working mechanisms of the United Nations. Such a goal also requires an agreement over the necessary reforms, chief among which are those related to the UN Security Council. Democracy must be introduced into its working mechanisms and its membership must be expanded to guarantee a fair representation for the Nonaligned Movement and to balance the Council's powers with those of the General Assembly and the other UN agencies. Iraq also stressed that that goal is a necessity to achieve democracy in international relations, underlining that this is not an easy task, taking into consideration the logic of the victors' strength which appears in certain provisions in the Charter.

Iraq stressed that the prerogatives given by the Charter to the UN Security Council permanent members are in fact additional duties, which entail special responsibility toward maintaining world security and peace and are not privileges enjoyed by these states to benefit their individualistic policies at the expense of the common interests of the member states.

Iraq voiced its firm conviction that the concept of security is an indivisible whole and that political security cannot be achieved without the economic security of the world community. Therefore, the statement added, there must be balanced economic relations based on justice, fairness, and solidarity to face the continuous demands of development and to abolish backwardness. It is now clear that no part of the world can guarantee its separate progress when the remaining, bigger part is suffering from backwardness, unemployment, poverty, and sickness and the political instability that may result from them.

Iraq strongly emphasized that the disarmament drive must be activated in a more objective way, which takes into consideration the interest of the whole, and not in a manner that serves some at the expense of others.

'Text' of Vice President's UN Speech

JN2510170995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 25 Oct 95

["Text" of speech by Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf at the UN General Assembly at celebrations marking the UN 50th anniversary on 24 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 25 Oct (INA)—Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General, Your Excellencies: Over the past 50 years, the United Nations made clear successes. It

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succeeded in eliminating colonialism, assisting liberation movements, and laying the bases of international law. It worked relentlessly to create a balance between security in the political, economic, and social fields based on the concept of (?comprehensive) security.

On the other hand, the Cold War which began with the birth of the organization, cast its shadow on the United Nations and its activities. The two main poles worked to regulate the system of work in the organization in a way that would not deprive either side the elements of strength in favor of the other. This was done at the expense of the principles, the charter, and interests of the majority of member states of the international organization.

The Cold War stage witnessed the eruption of several wars, the escalation of the arms race, and the decline in the prospects for implementing the organization's economic and social objectives, especially the objective of comprehensive development. This deepened the gap between the rich and poor countries and created new hotbeds of political instability.

When the Cold War ended, and contrary to all great hopes of a new era in which peace, development, and democracy in international relations prevail, unipolarism emerged. During the five year of this stage, several international and internal armed conflicts erupted, and the attempts to dismember countries in the name of free choice began. In the economic field, the conflict of interests was aggravated with the aim of concentrating wealth in the hands of the hegemonic forces. This obstructed the economic progress of some developing countries that followed a balanced policy to attain development and progress. In the social sector, attempts were made to direct the international joint action toward securing the supremacy of values and principles of a certain culture at the expense of the concepts and cultural values of other nations. The dangers threatening the environment continued. The method for dealing with disarmament continued according to the priorities of the forces that possess nuclear weapons and those who have just entered the nuclear club.

Unipolarism created ways of dealing within the United Nations that were characterized by selectivity, double standards, and the use of the international organization to achieve narrow selfish interests. An example of the results of that approach was the hasty implementation of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, such as imposing sanctions and the use of force. These sanctions were used on the basis of an extremist interpretation that greatly harmed the civilians of the targeted states and deprived them of their basic human rights, especially the right to food, medicine, education, work, and development as the case with our country, Iraq. The all-out siege imposed on Iraq for more than five years caused the death of thousands of children, women, and elderly as a result of shortage of food and medicine.

Mr. President: These negative phenomena should not discourage us because what is needed now is to diagnose the ailment and quickly remedy it. We should begin activating democracy in the UN work mechanism, enhancing the UN vehicles for resolving conflicts peacefully, and we should employ judicial means in this respect. We should reform the Security Council and its system of work in order to meet the interests of the majority of member states and lay down principles that prevent the exploitation of Chapter 7 for objectives other than those of the UN Charter. We also should work for activating the UN role in the economic field in order to establish balanced international economic relations based on the principles of justice and cooperation in face of the requirements of development.

We should also expedite efforts aimed at disarmament in a manner that serves all parties and not some parties at the expense of others.

Thank you Mr. President.

Arab League Envoy on U.S. 'Racist Aggression'

JN2510182295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1020 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, has accused the United States of obstructing the international efforts aimed to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people through its hegemony over the international organization and its resolutions. This came during Najm's meeting with the Arab and Foreign Correspondents Society in Cairo that was attended by more than 100 Arab and foreign radio and television correspondents. Najm stressed that there is an Arab and international consensus to lift the siege on Iraq now that it has fulfilled all its international obligations.

Najm said: The United States, which realizes that it cannot continue to confront the international community calling for an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people resulting from the siege, has been trying to propagate lies and distort the Security Council resolutions so as to serve its strategic interests and harm the Iraqi people. Iraq's permanent representative noted that the overall racist aggression against Iraq and the unjust and siege to which Iraq is being exposed now and which are targeting Iraq's life, people, future, and civilization were never taken by the United Nations, or in accordance with the international law, but by a colonialist American will and action.

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Najm said: Resolution 687, which was issued by the Security Council to define the reciprocal obligations between the council and Iraq and in accordance with which all Iraq's mass destruction weapons were destroyed and Iraq became free of these weapons, as noted in the UN Special Commission's report. He said that the Security Council's obligations toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of the resolution, calling for lifting oil blockade, have not yet been fulfilled.

Iraq's permanent representative added: Despite Iraq's implementation of the international resolutions, the siege was maintained on Iraq without any legitimacy for political purposes that are known not only to the Arabs, but to the entire world. This is because the siege, which is not in harmony with law and norms, serves U.S. interests and entrenches its rancor against Iraq and the nation.

In his review of the effects of the continued unjust blockade on the Iraqi people, Najm said: All sectors of life have been affected by the siege, particularly, the medical, education, and environment sectors. He added that this is confirmed by the figures and reports of the international organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the FAO, and the WHO. These reports show the extent of damage and death rate resulting from the continuation of the unjust blockade.

Dr. Nabil Najim then wondered whether it was legitimate to continue the blockade, impose a no-fly zone over northern and southern Iraq, maintain an abnormal situation in Iraq's Kurdistan, and use U.S. and British aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace 53,600 times, which have severely damaged the interests of the Iraqis.

He asserted that the United States and Britain used internationally-banned weapons against Iraq during their hostile operations in 1991, as acknowledged by the British defense secretary. This, he said, has had a noticeable effect on man, the environment, and life in general.

Dr. Najm then accused the UN Sanctions Committee of procrastination, and said that it has turned down demands by Iraq and some companies to send basic commodities, not covered by the sanctions, in line with the U.S. vision.

He also said that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, is pursuing a clear-cut policy and deeply believes in the importance of creating equitable Arab and international relations based on joint interests and the principle of clean relations, stressing that the difficulties the United States is placing in the face of that policy will not work.

Replying to a question on Resolution 987 allowing the sale of a limited quantity of oil, Iraq's permanent representative said that the said resolution, which was worked out by the U.S. Administration, came to foil international and Iraqi efforts to lift the unjust blockade in accordance with Paragraph 22, after Iraq had met its obligations. He stressed that the Iraqis adhere to their sovereignty and dignity and that attempts to shuffle cards have been exposed.

Concluding, Dr. Nabil Najm said that the U.S. Administration should abandon its illusions and that the public referendum epic in which the Iraqi people renewed their confidence in and love for President Saddam Husayn as a national and pan-Arab option is a clear message to everybody. Iraq, he added, stands by its people, leadership, and will.

Opposition Reports Saddam Ally Defects to Syria

NC2510194195 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 25 (AFP) — A former Iraqi provincial governor and close ally of President Saddam Husayn has fled to Syria with several members of his tribe, an opposition group in exile said Wednesday [25 October].

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of opposition forces, said Shaykh al-Sadid, the former governor of the president's home province, Tikrit, had taken refuge in Syria after a dispute with Saddam.

In a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia, the INC said Shaykh Hawath was one of the main leaders of the Shammar tribe, one of the largest Sunni Arab tribes in the north and west of the country that supported the Iraqi president. The shaykh and several members of his tribe crossed the border at Rabiyah on Tuesday after a row with Saddam, according to the INC, which said the defections would undermine the president's support among tribal leaders.

Opposition Says Syria Declines To Receive al-Faysal

JN2510174595 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria has recently said it will not receive any delegation from the Baghdad ruler's regime to hold talks with Syrian officials to restore Syrian-Iraqi relations to what they were before 1979.

Diplomatic sources in Amman say that the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman informed the tyrant's [Saddam Husayn] embassy there that the Syrian Government refuses to receive a delegation the tyrant intends to dispatch to Damascus led by Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal,

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under secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the collapsing regime in Baghdad. The Syrian ambassador [as heard] said he did not believe such visits were required or necessary.

Relations between the two sides were severed in 1979 when Saddam removed his predecessor from the seat of power in Iraq and took his place.

Mauritania Recalls Ambassador for 'Consultations'

NC2510143295 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, Oct 25 (AFP) - Mauritania's ambassador to Iraq, Islamu Ould Munir, returned home for consultations on Wednesday [25 October] after his country expelled Iraq's ambassador in Nouakchott over spying allegations, diplomats said.

A Mauritanian diplomat told AFP that Iraq's secretary of state for foreign affairs, 'Abd-al-Jabbar Al-Duri, had told Ould Munir before he left here that Baghdad "did not plan" on a tit-for-tat expulsion.

Al-Duri told Ould Munir late Tuesday that the Baghdad "did not want an escalation, but on the contrary sought to promote fraternal bilateral relations," the diplomat said.

Iraq on Tuesday strongly denied that an Iraqi spy ring had been set up in Mauritania and denounced the expulsion of its ambassador from the country. [passages omitted]

Sudanese Minister Tours Industrial Installations

JN2510213195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, Sudanese minister of defense, and his delegation today visited a number of industrial facilities.

During the tour — in which he was accompanied by Defense Minister Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad and Lieutenant General Eng. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, oil minister and acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization — the guest minister was briefed on the achievements scored by the Iraqis to rebuild the industrial installations that came under the rancorous 30-state attack, which targeted Iraq's infrastructure.

Lt. Gen. Eng. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid gave a detailed briefing on the extent of damage inflicted on these installations and the Iraqi efforts exerted to revive production lines in these installations.

Saddam Addresses Ba'th Members on 'Great March Day'

JN2510204695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2020 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has called the day of the glorious Iraqi stand — the 15 October referendum day — the Great March Day [yawm al-zahf al-kabir]. His excellency said this is the right description of the Iraqis under the leadership of their party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The president made the remarks while receiving those who came to congratulate him on the Great March Day. Those included the secretaries and members of the party's commands, heads and members of the executive offices of Iraqi mass and popular unions and organizations and associations, and heads of unions of the cultural association in Iraq.

Leader President Saddam Husayn made an important speech to the attendees, in which he greeted the great people of Iraq and their great jihad stand. Upon the arrival of the leader president, may God watch over him, he was received with applause and chants by the attendees. A number of the attendees spoke, congratulating the leader president on his victory in the public referendum and the Iraqi victory on that immortal day.

Tomorrow, we will broadcast the details of President Saddam Husayn's meeting with the comrades and those who congratulated him on the Great March Day.

Paper Hails UAE Call for Repeal of Sanctions

JN2610092895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0743 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described the call by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], for lifting the Iraq sanctions as "a great and positive pan-Arab initiative indicative of a profound awareness of the current stage and its political, economic, and security aspects."

In an article published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that this initiative continues to be appreciated and valued by the Iraqi people, by honorable people all over the world, and also on the popular and official Arab levels.

The paper goes on to say: This initiative is in line with the hopes and aspirations of the Arab masses with regard to shunning disputes among brothers. It clearly

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aims to do away with the climate of war and remove the summer clouds that have plagued inter-Arab ties for some time. It reflects an honest Gulf approach to putting the Arab house in order against the background of growing foreign blackmail and extortion.

The paper says: Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan's call is a real and honest response to the repeated pan-Arab Iraqi calls and appeals, which have underlined the need to clear the Arab atmosphere, close Arab ranks, and revitalize Arab solidarity in the higher interest of the Arab nation, particularly since there are dangers and challenges confronting the Arab homeland.

The paper adds: The courageous UAE call for solidarity with Iraq and a repeal of the Iraq sanctions, the assertions by UAE Minister of Defense Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum regarding the provision of immediate assistance to Iraq, and the statements made by Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah have all been well received and appreciated at the popular and official levels.

The paper goes on to say: The moves the UAE has made and its contacts with fraternal Arabs in the aftermath of this initiative in the context of consultations and coordination have focused on revitalizing the Arab League to achieve the objective of revoking the Iraq sanctions and clearing the way for an Arab summit. All of this confirms that the Arab masses are sympathetic to this call, and that they view it as the way out of the dark tunnel in which it is intended for the Arabs to remain so that the hostile parties' ambitions may be realized.

The paper asserts that Arabs are required to provide a serious solution to the current extraordinary situation. They can do so, the paper argues, if they respond favorably to the responsible pan-Arab call made by the UAE.

The paper concludes by saying that reliance on foreign powers and revenues to maintain the state of division and fragmentation is detrimental to the Arabs and the Arab nation.

Papers Hail Saddam's Victory in Referendum

JN2610094995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Iraqi papers published on 17 October came out with front-page banner headlines hailing President Saddam Husayn's victory in the 15 October presidential public referendum. AL-JUMHURIYAH: "Congratulations to One Billion Muslims on the Victory of the Symbol of Their Faith and Commander of Their Jihad Against American Barbarism," and "One Thousand Greetings to 200 Million Arabs Who Said With Us: Yes to Saddam Husayn." AL-THAWRAH: "99.96 Percent," and "Saddam Husayn President of the Republic of Iraq." AL-'IRAQ: "We Renewed the Pledge for Saddam and We Are Here Forever." AL-QADISIYAH: "Saddam Stands for Right and Nothing Rises Above Right," and "Saddam Husayn Has Won, Iraq Has Won, and the Nation Has Won."

Other inner-page headlines are: "Iraqis Say: Yes to Happy Childhood, Peaceful Old Age, Reassured Motherhood, and a Homeland Whose Fence Is Allahu Akbar," "Unanimity of Iraqis' Love for Leader Saddam Husayn Heads International Media," "Congratulations to Leader Saddam Husayn and His Great People," "Spontaneous Jubilant Marches Cover Baghdad and the Governorates Rejoicing the Great Victory of President Saddam Husayn," "Overwhelming Victory of President Saddam Husayn Is the Natural Result of the People's Love for the Leader," "An Immortal Day in the History of Arabdom and Islam."

Other headlines getting front page prominence are: "Shaykh Zayid: It Is Time for Reconciliation With Iraq," "Al-Qadhdhafi: "The Referendum Was a Slap in the Face for the West," "Marches of Joy and Jubilation Cover the Cities of Iraq," "Foreign Media: Iraqis Are Convinced Saddam Husayn Is the Guarantee for the Future of Their Homeland," and "Arab Media: The Referendum Turns Into a Festival of Support for Saddam Husayn."

The papers also carry the text of the statement issued by the Higher Commission Supervising the Public Referendum announcing President Saddam Husayn's victory and the official results of the referendum as filed in FYI JN1610164695.

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 October 1995 carries in its "Viewpoint" column on pages one and two a 1,000-word article by its chief editor Salah al-Mukhtar entitled: "Iraq Triumphs, Saddam Husayn Marches On, and the United States Is Defeated." In this article, the writer hails Saddam's victory and equates Iraq with a "solid, sparkling diamond" which becomes even brighter under fire and stronger under pressure. The writer also seizes the occasion to castigate the United States, especially UN permanent representative Madeleine Albright.

The author says: "Yesterday, with the solidity of the unique Iraqi diamond, we told the earth's barbaric rodents coming from the continent of AIDS and murder that we do not accept anyone other than Saddam as leader." He adds: "We told the empire of evil and death that we are people who cannot be subjected to death, and therefore cannot bow. You the representatives of the United States, you filthy rodents, which have escaped

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from the earth's prisons and exiles, bow to the one who slaps you, and sell your honor, word, and sword to the one who pays you." The author continues: "With the spirit of crime overwhelming, like flies, the face of an old witch with evil aims and feelings called Mad Albright—a name reflecting her true spirit—you said: The Iraqi people must bow and accept U.S. colonization of their precious great homeland, and that the initial step must be abandoning Saddam Husayn."

Aims of U.S. Military Presence in Gulf Examined

JN2410210295 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1855 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration decided to beef up its military presence in the Arabian Gulf waters and in its Air Force bases there. In Bahrain, 20 new military aircraft have been added to over three times that figure already stationed there. If we add to this figure the U.S. Air Force planes stationed in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, this will mean that the declared number of U.S. military aircraft stationed in the Arab Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula is over 300, not to mention those stationed in the Arabian Gulf waters and other gulfs and seas surrounding the Arab homeland or on the high seas. The pretext distributed by the U.S. media and propaganda organs to justify this intensive presence talks of an alleged Iraqi threat. This U.S. decision was made in the wake of statements by Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister. Those statements were aimed [words indistinct]. On the other hand, he wanted to give the U.S. Administration the pretext not only to perpetuate its military presence in military bases in the Arab Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, but also to (?intensify) this presence. The U.S. Administration moved quickly [words indistinct] to achieve more than one objective at the same time. [words indistinct] enable the Americans to continue milking the Arab wealth in the Arab Gulf. [words indistinct] military presence in the Arab oil region [words indistinct]. This will enable the U.S. Administration to continue milking Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others, and to continue looting the Arab oil wealth and impose military hegemony on the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula.

The U.S. Administration knows absolutely well that Iraq does not threaten the Gulf or other Arab states. The real and continued threat is the Zionist and U.S. threat and the foreign ambitions in the Arab homeland and its wealth. However, the U.S. Administration seeks to obstruct any positive move or rational and wise initiative because the illegitimate U.S. interests in the region fully contradict Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

Perhaps raising this clamor now is aimed at undermining the sincere and serious pan-Arab effort to achieve Arab reconciliation and lift the sinful blockade imposed on our people. But does the U.S. Administration believe that tactics and tricks will succeed once again in [words indistinct] foreign hegemony and the process of systematic looting of Arab wealth? The answer to this question lies in whether balanced Arab steps will be taken toward reconciliation and the immediate lifting of the Iraq blockade.

Newpaper Criticizes Western Media 'Fabrications'

JN2510155495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has criticized western media, their fabrications against Iraq, and their leveling of accusations and falsehoods against it. The newspaper says that the Zionist entity and those harboring grudge against the Arab nation stand behind these fabrications and lies.

AL-THAWRAH was commenting on the lies of THE GUARDIAN's correspondent, who came to Baghdad to cover the popular referendum on the presidential post which was held on 15 October.

The newspaper adds that imperialist-Zionist viciousness, which made well-known media organs resort to cheap and naive deception methods, is a sign of the collapse of the credibility of the western media and their submission to Zionist and imperialist instructions. This also shows that these media have no professional conscience or ethics and that they adopt a Nazi media policy which calls for disseminating lies until those who disseminate them believe them.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the western media, led by the British media, deal with their own wishes and desires as if they are accomplished realities and irrefutable facts. In their dealing with Arab issues, in particular, and Third World issues, in general, the western media not only relay events with selectivity and incomplete facts, they do not hesitate to create different realities for the Arabs and the Third World countries. The western media fabricate facts that are in harmony with the colonialist view which claims that we are against science, progress, democracy, and human rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says that the media clamor, which is trying to distort our independent will, is run by the same Zionist- imperialist will which launched its 30-state aggression and which has been imposing siege on our people for more than five years.

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Kurdish Leader on Victories Over PKK

JN2310111995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Mas'ud Barzani, [Kurdistan Democratic Party] leader, has addressed a message to the Dahuk operations command, all axes, and the Kurdistan masses. In this message Barzani said: The terrorists and those who encouraged them to carry out their failed adventure imagined that they could control the area and finish off the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] within a few days. From the premise of this misconception, the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] carried out its treacherous aggression against the masses in the area and the party on the night of 25-26 August.

In his message, Barzani said: However, the reality they encountered was something else. The masses rallied around the Peshmerga forces and they achieved miracles. Vast areas were purged of the terrorists in only a few days, their main bases were destroyed, and major defeats were inflicted on them, and they sustained heavy losses, not to mention the political and moral losses they sustained throughout Kurdistan and the democratic world.

Barzani added: We proudly greet this great effort and congratulate every peshmerga, citizen, the commanders who led the purging operations, and every honest Kurd who shares us our appreciation of their feats. Congratulations to our Kurdistan people and to our KDP on this great victory, the victory of ethics, principles, and Kurdish nationalism over treason, dictatorship, and charlatanism.

Sons of our Kurdistan people: You witnessed how the PKK and its leaders boasted of launching their aggression against the KDP and how they leveled false accusations against it. However, the truth always prevails and right always wins.

The PKK's efforts to forge history are futile. Those who preceded it, whether they were governments, deviated Kurdish parties, or others have failed. Remorse was the lot of those who followed that course. The party is the party of the masses and of the immortal [Mustafa] Barzani. With its struggle and sacrifices, the party has become the symbol of Kurdish genuineness and the bastion of Kurdish nationalism. As for those who want to efface this fact, they commit national treason and beat a hollow drum.

In his message to the people and all the axes, Barzani said: The ungrateful PKK has forgotten all the support and assistance the party offered them in 1980 when they fled from Turkey following the military coup. Had it not been for the party's assistance, the PKK would not have managed to stand on its feet. The Kurds on both sides of the border viewed the PKK as an alien party. The party offered them all they needed for work. But, no sooner had they sensed that they are once again standing on solid ground than they broke their promise and disavowed values. The latest treason was on 25 August 1995 when a leading delegation from the PKK visited the party's political bureau to settle outstanding problems. On the night of 25-26 August, the PKK committed their unforgivable treason and aggression. These ethics have nothing to do with the Kurdish people and are alien to them. They claimed they carried out their aggression against the KDP because it signed the agreement on principles in Drogheda, a peace agreement the Kurdish people and all their friends have welcomed. They used this as an excuse to justify their aggression. What we want to ask here is whether the party was the only one to have signed that agreement and was it not signed by other parties? What was the PKK's attitude toward these parties? We are committed to safeguarding only our people's security and not that of others. However, we respect relations with all neighbors, and we do not permit that their security be threatened from our territory.

Barzani's message to the people and the peshmerga continues: We stress that the PKK accusations are baseless, and throughout these battles we have not asked for any Turkish assistance despite the Turkish Government's offer. Anybody in our place would not have hesitated to ask for help against the PKK. God be praised, following these wonderful victories scored by our party over the PKK's aggression by relying on God and with the efforts of the peshmerga and the support of the masses, the terrorists must have reconsidered their calculations, understood the reality, and learned that fighting the party is not easy. Fighting it means fighting the Kurdistan mountains. Those who have been misled should return to reason, choose their interests, and leave the ranks of treachery, agentry, and dictatorship.

There is a reality to which we must refer. If anybody wants something from the party, he can get it only through reaching agreement, because the party will not bow to anybody's blackmail and will not accept any aggression. I address these words to our brothers in Turkey's Kurdistan and Syria's Kurdistan and we express our deep regret about the fall of many of their sons in this unjust battle in service of the other sides' interests and against the people of Kurdistan. We also appeal to the brothers to withdraw their sons before it is too late.

In his important message to the operations command, all axes, and the masses of the people, Barzani said: We praise God for these victories over tyranny, injustice,

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and aggression, and we also pay tribute to the souls of the martyrs, who offered their souls so that the party can live with its head raised high and so that the masses of Kurdistan be free and Kurdistan strong, wishing the wounded speedy recovery.

Barzani then recomended the following:

I believe the following points should be emphasized, respected, and meticulously carried out.

1. To offer help and assistance to those who quit the terrorists' ranks and to offer all facilities to those who wish to go anywhere they want.

2. To abide by the laws on prisoners of war with respect to those captured by safeguarding their lives and dignity.

3. To distribute the foodstuffs seized from the terrorists' warehouses to the masses in the area.

4. With respect to the Atrush camp, those who are in it are our brothers. It is a known fact that the party has offered them every facility since they entered Kurdistan two years ago, escaping the terrorism of both sides.

In his message, Barzani said: With great regret, the PKK exploited the party's forbearance. The PKK pursued these unjustly treated people even to that camp, transformed it into a training camp, and imposed its will on its inhabitants by force. Not content with this, many of the camp residents were even executed on the mere suspicion of not being loyal to the PKK. They held mock trials, and imposed a group of their cadres as the camp's committee, sowing corruption in it. What is more serious is that they established a checkpoint at the camp's entrance to prevent the regional administration's employees from entering. The PKK, illegally, appointed itself as the legal authority in violation of the UN laws and regulations on refugee camps. The PKK practices reached such a point as to execute two Zakho inhabitants in the camp when they visited their friends.

Mas'ud Barzani concluded his message by saying: In light of the above, I ask you to take care of these brothers, protect them from PKK terrorism, and provide the appropriate circumstance for them to freely elect the representatives who will run their affairs. We stress that the PKK interference in the camp should be stopped and the weapons introduced into it be seized. They should submit to the region's authority in accordance with the UN laws and regulations.

To implement these measures, cooperation and coordination with the UN representatives is a must.

I ask God to protect the Kurds and Kurdistan from evildoers. Let us march from victory to victory.

Signed: Mas'ud Barzani, 21 October 1995

Kurds Report 12 'Separatists' Killed in Operation

TA2410160095 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1450 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Placenames as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yuksekova, Oct 24 (AA) — Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party (IKDP) radio said on Tuesday [24 October] that peshmergas wrapped up an operation staged at Iraq-Iran and Turkish border triangle and killed 12 separatists.

The radio said peshmergas devastated Hakurk camp belonging to the separatist terrorists during the operation which started on Monday.

It said they eradicated the terrorists in more than 50 villages in two mountains, in Bradost, Sehzaade and Sirvan regions.

'Two depots and a large quantity of military equipment were seized during the operations' it added.

SAIRI Chief Interviewed on Internecine Strife

NC1910205295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 95 p 2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with SAIRI leader Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, here Monday [9 October] lauded Iran's initiatives in planning and hosting direct talks between rival Kurdish factions here last week.

Quoting from parties involved in the negotiations, Hakim described the Tehran meeting as fruitful, adding that the two sides entered into the negotiations with a positive and optimistic attitude, making the talks fruitful.

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, Hakim also thanked the two rival factions for their good intentions during attending the Tehran meeting.

The SAIRI head also revealed cooperation in Irbil, future assets disposal the factions' troop arrangements as other subjects discussed in the Tehran meeting.

He added that an agreement was also reached on the amount of taxes to be paid for oil exports from northern Iraqi regions, stressing that no problem remained unsolved after the conclusion of the talks.

He also felt confident that issues which require further studies could be dealt with after the two parties return

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to their respective bases and submit their plans on the disputed issues.

Asked to comment on Baghdad's accusation that Tehran is meddling in the internal affairs of northern Iraq, Hakim refuted the claim and stressed that the Islamic Republic has always been for Iraq's territorial integrity and the consolidation of the Iraqi nation.

"Iran seeks nothing but the restoration of peace and stability in northern Iraq," he said.

Iraq has time and again accused Iran of interfering in its internal affairs because of the initiative taken by the Tehran government in hosting talks between the rival Iraqi Kurdish factions.

According to Hakim, the Baghdad regime is using such accusations as a pretext to harm its relations with Tehran in a concerted move with the West.

"The Baghdad regime has always conducted its political moves with Tehran in accordance with Western propaganda which desires to blackmail the two sides," the SAIRI head said.

He said Iran has every right to be sensitive to developments in the region as between two Muslim groups in Iraq is a matter of religious concern for Iran for which it has a Muslim responsibility to prevent bloodshed.

"The silence of Saddam Hussayn before foreign political delegations under the pseudo titles of "rescuers," "refugee advocates," "inspectors" and "businessmen," some of which were decidedly Zionists, and his weak reaction to the illegal incursion of Turkish troops into Iraq, makes his accusations against Iran wonderful," the SAIRI head sarcastically said.

He blasted Turkish incursion into northern Iraq, calling it a military attack and an intervention in domestic affairs.

Speaking of the failure of the Dublin (Ireland) negotiations, Hakim said the talks failed because they were conducted with the aims of the U.S. and Turkey behind them and were against the policies of Iran, Syria and other neighboring countries.

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Knesset, Beilin Congratulate U.S. on Decision

TA2510170795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A day after the U.S. Congress voted to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by May 1999, the Knesset has decided to send a message of congratulations to the American Senate and House of Representatives on the vote. In doing so, the government and house speaker accepted Likud Knesset Member [MK] Yehoshu'a Matza's proposal to congratulate the American people on what he called correcting past mistakes regarding Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Economics Minister Yosi Beilin says he does not think the decision will harm the peace process. Beilin told reporter Efrayim Gefen that he welcomed the vote.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] I am very glad that after all these years, the American Senate and Congress decided to move the embassy to Jerusalem. I see it as perhaps the first step towards an international recognition of Jerusalem as our capital.

[Gefen] What about the timing? Do you think it could harm the peace process?

[Beilin] I do not think that there is a good time or a bad time for good things. I mean, something like that should always take place as soon as possible. You know, there are people who say: We are for peace, but the time is the wrong one. There is no wrong time for peace. There is no wrong time for moving the embassy to Jerusalem. I do not believe that there is a case for any Arab partner to stop negotiations or to criticize anybody just for moving this embassy, because by that we are actually fulfilling our very natural right of having not only our own state but also our own capital.

[Gefen] Now, the issue of Jerusalem has not yet come up for discussion. Could this decision by the Senate and Congress harm the discussions on the future of Jerusalem?

[Beilin] It should not harm any discussion, but I agree that if the American Congress and Senate and, eventually, the administration decide to move the embassy to Jerusalem, it is strengthening our view that Jerusalem is our capital and only our capital.

[Gefen] Do you see this vote as a recognition on the part of the Senate as Jerusalem — the whole of Jerusalem — being the capital of Israel?

[Beilin] Well, that is a complicated question. I am not sure whether that is the case. I would like it to be the case, but I think we are speaking about the west part of Jerusalem where the American Embassy will be. I hope that in the future, what you said may become the reality. [end recording]

Clinton Said Worthy of 'Schlemiel Award'

TA2510144695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 95 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "A Silver Platter and the Schlemiel Decoration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, at the Washington celebrations to mark Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will have to swallow yet another of the bitter pills the U.S. Administration has been feeding the peace process. Later, he will rush to another ceremony, where he will present President Bill Clinton with the Isaiah (the prophet) decoration for his contribution to that process.

There is no more befitting decoration than a silver platter to characterize the U.S. contribution to the negotiations between Israel and the Arabs since Clinton has occupied the White House. The agreements Israel signed with the Palestinians and with Jordan were presented to Clinton on a silver platter. The United States' outstanding contribution to the breakthrough was the trays of champagne at the ceremonies at which the signings were broadcast live.

This week, the administration's power and wisdom failed to prevent a U.S. political initiative which threatens "to destroy the peace process," as experts at the White House and the Department of Near Eastern Affairs at the State Department told the congressmen who support the embassy's transfer to Jerusalem.

The administration's policy on the embassy move is a mixture of unjust and unwise behavior. Economic Planning Minister Yosi Beilin, like other representatives of the government, did not panic over the bill to transfer the embassy to Jerusalem by May 1999. Since Republicans Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich announced the bill last Passover, a casual conversation with a middle-level AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] official has been sufficient to understand how serious it is this time. Rabin understood it immediately when he came to Washington last spring.

Israeli envoys in Washington reported home that the issue is not whether the Jerusalem law will be passed, but when and how. That being the case, it was better for the government to cash in on it rather than allow Ehud Olmert to stand among the dignitaries on Capitol Hill's rotunda. Rabin did not repeat the remarks of "a senior official in his entourage" who blamed the Likud last spring for making cynical use of Jerusalem and U.S. politics in order to undermine the peace process.

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In their dogmatic eagerness to adhere to the principle that "just as the sides themselves agreed, no issues that should be left for the permanent settlement negotiations should be dealt with now," the peace team went all the way, thereby losing almost everything. Instead of controlling the damage by stressing the importance of the fact that the embassy will be located in western Jerusalem, which is not up for negotiation even in the permanent settlement talks, Clinton's advisers persuaded him to threaten to veto the move and to play brinkmanship with Congress.

The compromise formula, arrived at after a great deal of labor, could have been presented months ago without angering the Jews (especially those who believe that Clinton should be ashamed of his contribution to "Israel's surrender to the Arabs") and giving the Republicans Jerusalem as a present.

The hardline approach of the White House further isolated Clinton because of the wide-ranging support for the bill among the Democrats in Congress, which left no chance of a Presidential veto. In his New York primaries, Dole can now boast that he forced the President to accept the rectification of an age-old wrong to the Jewish capital.

Similar schlemiel behavior characterizes the confrontations currently taking place between the administration and Congress over the bill on aid to the Palestinians. The State Department refused to compromise with Congress on reasonable terms (in the eyes of Jewish and Israeli supporters) for this aid. The bill has been stuck for weeks in a bureaucratic maze which is making the aid unfeasible. In the current atmosphere in Congress, a similar fate can be expected for the administration's plan to advance an Israeli- Syrian arrangement with the help of U.S. overseers on the Golan.

The Republican majority in Congress does not free the Clinton administration of responsibility for the obstacles. George Bush's Republican administration maneuvered around a Democratic majority that opposed the Gulf war and was not keen on tying the immigrant loan guarantees to a settlement halt.

Clinton did not succeed in establishing a common denominator with the Democratic majority he had in the first two years of his term over his pet program: health reform. Last week, he managed to infuriate his friends when he admitted to being wrong about raising taxes in 1993 (and then explained that "he was tired when he spoke.")

Some Democrats who supported him at the time paid the price of losing their seats. Democratic Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska said that this strategy has reduced the confidence of liberal legislators in the President.

Deep in their hearts, some Democrats may have feared that Clinton would do another last minute "flip-flop" and leave them with the ire of the Jewish community while boasting about the transfer of the embassy to Jerusalem to the wealthy Israel Bonds leaders gathered to honor him with the Isaiah prize .

If this administration deserves a decoration, there is none more fitting than the schlemiel award. The embassy law gives it an opportunity to finally work for some of the credit it constantly takes for the peace process; after warning about the storms the law will cause in the Arab world, the Arabs will have to meet the expectations. The President and his advisers will have to sweat to soothe the bad atmosphere they predicted, if not actually invited.

Rabin Refuses Saddam's Request for Shahal Meeting

TA2610113295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct 95 p 23

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently turned down an indirect request from Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn for a meeting between an emissary on his behalf and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

MA'ARIV obtained information indicating that Saddam Husayn has asked a senior official closely associated with him to meet with the Israeli police minister as soon as possible.

A European source, who delivered the message to Minister Shahal, even specified Paris as the location for the meeting. Shahal, it has been learned, immediately reported the request from the Iraqi authorities to Prime Minister Rabin. At the same time, Rabin was informed of the proposal through other channels.

The prime minister decided to reject the idea, with the belief that this would infuriate the United States, which is exerting efforts to enforce the boycott against Iraq. Prime Minister Rabin even suspected that the appeal was merely an attempt to use Israel to break the boycott.

The request to meet with Shahal was made several months ago and kept a secret. A senior Iraqi Government official, who had approached the European source, explained that the request was not for a meeting with "just any Israeli minister" but specifically with Minister

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Shahal, who is of Iraqi origin and close to Prime Minister Rabin. Yesterday, Shahal refused to comment on the subject.

In the past there have been rumors of secret contacts between the two countries, which were strenuously denied by Israel. Last year, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz even declared his country's readiness to end the state of war with Israel.

At the time, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres denied that there were any contacts with Iraq and responded to the Iraqi foreign minister's statement by saying: "Our enemy is not Iraq. We have a serious problem with Saddam Husayn. One cannot count on his word."

Peres Reviews Syrian Track, Peace Process

TA2610131095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Oct 95 p A4

[Report by Gay Bekhor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday: "I am convinced that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has not yet said his last word with regard to the talks with Israel. Both he and Israel still have time until March to make peace." Peres noted that "time is running out not because of us but because of the election campaign in the United States," adding: "I have no intention of wasting even one minute of peace-making time. Therefore, I do not anticipate early elections."

The foreign minister met with Arab affairs correspondents yesterday and stressed that "the peace negotiations are not going on vacation. In my opinion, it is more important to win in peace than in the elections. And I would like to tell my colleagues (in the Labor Party): Stop talking about preparations for elections." Peres clarified that in his view, even the barest Knesset majority suffices in order to make peace with Syria.

Nevertheless, Peres criticized al-Asad, stating that the Syrian president is misreading the international and regional map. "Al- Asad thinks that the whole world should consult with him and learn from him, whereas he only consults with himself. That is a strange approach," Peres said. "Israel signed six peace agreements, while Syria has signed none. So who should learn from whom? Israel from Syria or the other way around?"

Peres added that "al-Asad believes we are playing a game of chess. We are not. Al-Asad wants to profit from the Americans, like [former Egyptian President] al-Sadat. He thinks he knows how to negotiate better than everybody else, and he thinks he has time." The foreign minister emphasized his doubts about al-Asad's sincere desire for peace with Israel and about what was described as preparing the Syrian people for peace. "I was skeptical from the outset. But it is important to show that if the negotiations fail it is not Israel's fault," he said. Peres also explained that "it is also important to find a partner. That was what we did with 'Arafat. Theoretically, if al-Asad realizes that this is it and the negotiations fail, a northern coalition (against Israel) made up of Syria and Iran, and perhaps even Iraq, could emerge. There are always dangers."

As for the implementation of the Oslo B agreement, the foreign minister said that it was proceeding to his satisfaction, although minor hitches could occur. "Oslo B will prove a success, just as Oslo A is in the Gaza Strip," Peres asserted. "One can already see how Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is growing weaker in the field. It feels that it is losing the public's support." Peres prefers the elections in the territories to be held as soon as possible "so as not to mix two election campaigns, in the territories and Israel, with their accompanying rhetoric." The foreign minister said that the Palestinians are preparing themselves for democracy, which the younger generation of Palestinians learned about from Israel.

"There is a young generation of 125,000 Arabs," Peres explained, "who have spent time in Israeli prisons, studied Hebrew, and learned the meaning of democracy. In this respect, the prisons served as one big university. A peace movement has emerged in the Gaza Strip with all its members being former prisoners. Israel will do everything in its power to let them become a democratic society," Peres added.

As for the annulment of the clauses in the Palestine National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction, Peres pointed out that for the first time a target date had been set for revoking the covenant, two months after the establishment of the Palestinian Council. "If 'Arafat does not amend the covenant this time, we have a sanction to use against him: holding up the redeployment. After all, we are supposed to redeploy in the area every six months," Peres explained, adding: "In the past, the talk about changing the covenant was merely an opportunity. We called on them to 'seize the opportunity.' Now it is a commitment with a timetable."

At the meeting, the foreign minister revealed that he had accepted the Palestinian demand that the Palestinian council have 82 members — this, after Israel had insisted on a maximum of 30 members. Peres said that he had personally accepted the Palestinian position. "The Palestinians were amazed when I told them this," Peres recalled. "I think we were wrong to argue about this matter for so long. An 82-member council is more representative. It enhances the council's legitimacy and expands its room for debate."

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Peres views the economic conference in Amman, which is due to convene in four days, as the direct continuation of the Casablanca conference held one year ago, which "illuminated the Middle East with a new light, with the region looking different since then."

The foreign minister asserted that "Casablanca constituted a revolution. There are always skeptics who talk nonsense, and the Amman summit has already been buried. At the last conference in Morocco, the Arab boycott was eroded, and we will now start implementing the decisions reached in Casablanca: the regional bank everyone laughed at, which will now be established in Cairo; regional tourism and trade centers; and more."

Peres reported that following the agreement with Jordan on the establishment of a joint airport, discussions on joint plans for railroads and industrial cooperation are currently under way. Discussions are also being held on a Taba-al-'Aqabah-Elat free trade zone.

Weizman Voices 'Sharp Criticism' of Oslo Accord

TA2510201995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman has leveled sharp criticism at the agreement with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in a meeting with members of the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee, the president said: This is no agreement. Even the justice minister and the attorney general have criticized it. There should be consideration for the Judaea and Samaria settlers, because all Israeli Governments sent them there. I told the prime minister and the foreign minister that we should not hurry and that something should be left for the permanent agreement. The agreement was endorsed by a majority of one Knesset member [MK], and had he not received a Mitsubishi, there would have been no agreement. So much for 'Ezer Weizman's remarks.

The president and MK Salih Tarif exchanged angry words at the meeting. MK Tarif said that the president may not cross lines or take political sides and that his remarks implied that he is opposed to the agreement. The president replied: Do not argue and do not help me. MK's have come here and then left and cited me as having said things that I never uttered. Do not say I am against peace. If you leak anything, do not return to this house. Salih Tarif's reply was: I will definitely not return if the president speaks in such manner.

Labor Launches Support Campaign for Oslo 2 Accord

TA2610115095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Sarah Honig and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Labor Party soon plans to send out all of its MKs [Knesset members] and other public figures to sell the Oslo 2 agreement to the public, in what is seen as the opening volley in the next elections.

One hundred rallies and meetings will be held in support of the accord around the country, where Labor politicians will make the party's case.

The plan was decided upon yesterday at a caucus chaired by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, with the participation of Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Interior Minister Ehud Baraq, and Health Minister Efrayim Sne.

Sne stressed that the Labor message would have several emphases. "We will remind the public that the latest accord with the Palestinians will create a more Jewish Israel and that the Right had mixed the nations while Labor is separating them and undoing the mad population snarl created by the previous Likud governments."

Likud Executive Bureau Chairman MK 'Uzi Landau reacted last night by asserting that "a viable peace agreement sells itself and needs no intensive care salesmanship."

Likud MK Limor Livnat responded by saying, "The Labor Party is getting itself into more and more difficulties. Now the Labor Party prefers a public discussion on the failures of the Oslo agreement to avert attention from the police investigation into senior party members. After all the major productions and publicity campaigns, nobody is convinced that the Oslo Agreement is a peace agreement."

Weizman Meets Arab Delegation on Prisoner Release

TA2510165395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A large Arab sector delegation, which included all the Arab Knesset members [MK's], local council heads, and members of the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee, met with President Weizman this evening. They asked the president to pardon 55 Arab Israeli security prisoners, as well as the remaining female Palestinian prisoners. Several speakers complained that the president's recent remarks have been misconstrued by the Arab sector and that the people are

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under the impression that the president has forsaken the path of peace.

The president had words with MK's Tarif and Sadiq, who claimed that Mr. Weizman's remarks serve the right wing. The president replied that he refuses to pardon the female Palestinian prisoners; however, he promised to discuss the release of Israeli security prisoners with the prime minister, after the latter's return from the United States. This was reported by our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad.

Official: Elections May Be Delayed in Territories

TA2510123495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of government activities in the territories, has said that elections in the territories might not be held on 20 January 1996 because of numerous technical difficulties.

Speaking to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Maj. Gen. Shahor noted that it is already possible to observe intensive preparations for the elections in the territories, both among supporters and opponents of the process.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Maj. Gen. Shahor and his aides have sensed a higher level of seriousness in the Palestinian Authority's [PA] fight against terrorism. There are close ties between the PA and Israel's security forces. Maj. Gen. Shahor said that the number of Civilian Administration employees had dropped to 20 percent of its former scope.

Settlers Return to Hadagan Hill; Area Closed

TA2510152795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has declared Hadagan Hill, near Efrat, a closed military zone, and troops were dispatched to watch settlers who returned to the site at midday with trailers for an overnight stay. They rigged the trailers to power generators and are again speaking of building a neighborhood. According to the Hadagan Hill settlers, the timing of this move is coincidental and has nothing to do with the evacuation of Janin.

Trade Agreement Signed With Jordan

TA2510165895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Jordan have signed a trade agreement. It is the latest agreement to be signed following last year's peace treaty between the two countries. Trade between the two countries is now expected to increase rapidly. Neil Sandler reports:

[Begin Sandler recording] The agreement was signed this afternoon at a hotel along the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. Signing for Israel was Trade and Industry Minister Mikha Harish and for Jordan, Trade Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Harish said that the agreement granted Jordan immediate preference in trade with Israel. He said this was to prove to Jordan that the peace agreement has economic advantages and will lead to growth in the Jordanian economy. The trade minister said that the agreement will create the basis for Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian economic cooperation. He also said that Jordan can play an important role in future trade relations between Israel and Iraq, but Harish said this would be only after Saddam Husayn disappears from the scene.

Jordanian Trade Minister Abu-al-Raghib termed the agreement a practical approach to developing peace between the two peoples. He added that it is quite clear Jordan and Israel are proceeding with peace in a serious and irreversible manner.

Under the terms of the agreement, Israel will grant Jordan 20-50 percent exemptions from customs on most Jordanian industrial products, including cement, furniture, foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, and toys. Jordan, for its part, will reduce tariffs by 10 percent on a wide range of Israeli products, including plywood, tires, foodstuffs, electronic components, medical and communications equipment, and pharmaceuticals. The trade agreement takes into account the size difference between the Israeli and Jordanian economies: Per capita income in Jordan is less than a quarter of the level in Israel. The agreement will be in effect for three years, and after that the terms are to be renegotiated. [end recording]

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Al-Kabariti: 'Reservation' About Embassy Move

JN2610084595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, stressed in their meeting in New York the importance of joint action and the unity of the Arab position. He said that contacts and consultations between His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, will continue in order to foster the distinguished relations and serve the joint interests of the two countries and the Arab nation.

Al-Kabariti was answering reporters' questions following a UN General Assembly session held to commemorate the UN's 50th anniversary. He said Jordan's position on the U.S. Congress bill on the status of Jerusalem and transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to it is a steady one. He explained that this position is one of reservation vis-a-vis any decision that affects the status of Jerusalem and which prejudges the final solution of the city's status, which should be based on Resolution 242, UN resolutions on Jerusalem, and the results of final-status talks on the holy city.

House Deputies Call U.S. Embassy Decision 'Unfair'

JN2510140495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives has condemned the bill passed by the U.S. Congress last night, which approved the transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The House deputies issued a statement in this regard, saying: This position will prejudice the final status talks between the Palestinians and Israelis and create a state of tension and pessimism in the entire region.

The House reiterated the adherence of Jordan and the Arab and Islamic nation, for that matter, to the UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions on Jerusalem. The House added: Given that it is a sponsor of the peace process, the U.S. Administration is required to take a clear and firm stand in order to frustrate these efforts.

The House appealed to all world parliaments in general, and to the parliaments of the Islamic and Arab nation in particular, to oppose this bill on all levels.

Regarding the U.S. bill, Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the House' Foreign Relations Committee, spoke to our radio, saying:

[Begin al-Nusur recording] I cannot describe the move made by the U.S. Congress with a more eloquent remark than the one used by Mr. Lee Hamilton, former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, who described the move as an irresponsible farce. Hamilton added that this is domestic political bickering aimed at promoting the interests of some U.S. presidential candidates.

The U.S. Congress passed an unfair and illegitimate resolution yesterday. It is highly regrettable that Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, who opposed the transfer of the embassy to Jerusalem in the last election campaign, has submitted a draft bill that conflicts with his previous principled stand. At the time, he advanced arguments grounded in international legitimacy, which stipulates that the transfer of the embassy to Jerusalem or any insinuations to this effect could prejudice and obstruct the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian track of negotiations.

The U.S. Congress has taken this stand on the heels of the meetings held in New York on 23 October by some 140 world leaders and representatives of 185 world states. This decision by the U.S. Congress conflicts with the United Nations' legitimacy, whose 50th anniversary has just been celebrated. At present, there are Arab, Islamic, Third World, and Nonaligned Movement leaders in New York. Nonetheless the U.S. Congress has made this decision, whose timing and content is harmful.

The position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan toward Jerusalem is clear. Jordan believes Jerusalem is occupied territory, that it is Arab territory, and that God willing, it will be the capital of the future State of Palestine. [end recording]

Embassy Bill Called 'Unjustified Interference'

JN2610112595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Oct 95 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Jerusalem and America's Senators"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The bill passed by the U.S. Congress on moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem is by all political standards a recognition by the U.S. legislative authority of Jerusalem as a capital of the State of Israel. It should be noted that this issue has stirred deep-rooted differences, the aggravation of which might undermine the peace process. This bill is by all standards an unjustified interference in an affair with which the U.S. legislative authority has nothing to do whatsoever.

The U.S. State Department — the party that presumably should first and foremost deal with this issue — issued

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a statement that contradicted and opposed the U.S. Congress statement. This shows how weird the U.S. senators' position was. Given its permanent contact with the peace process and the Middle East question, the U.S. State Department fully realizes the importance everyone attaches to the holy city. It also realizes that any encroachment upon the city might re-ignite the conflict which the wise have long sought to terminate.

Jerusalem has always been the most important aspect of the Arab- Israeli conflict. Therefore, discussion of the Jerusalem issue was left for the Palestinian-Israeli final-status talks. The two sides made the postponement decision because they realize the political importance they both attach to this topic.

International reaction to the U.S. senators' bill reaffirmed the previous positions of all world countries, which always abstained from recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital in keeping with the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolution 242, which emphasizes the need for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

Within the context of the current controversy, it is important to note here that some parties inside the Israeli state and Government seek solutions to the dilemma of the holy city — solutions that would reconcile Palestinian demands with those of the Israeli side in a fashion that would help the Middle East peace process continue. Everyone knows that the peace process cannot reach its aspired goals unless a solution that secures the minimum demands of both parties is attained.

Those who follow the peace process and the debate on the holy city, which holds entire world's attention, must take into consideration His Majesty King Husayn's numerous calls that the optimal solution lies in considering Jerusalem a spiritual capital where there is no sovereignty expect that of God. This should be done in a way that ensures Palestinian and Israeli political sovereignty over the two respective parts of the city if the two sides, the Israeli side in particular, truly seek a just and durable peace.

'Arab-Islamic Effort' Urged on U.S. Embassy Issue

JN2610113495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Oct 95 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Congress is More Zionist Than the Israeli Knesset"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two houses of the U.S. Congress committed a cardinal sin at dawn yesterday when they chose to project a position that is more radical and Zionist than that of the Israeli Knesset, by approving a bill that provides for transferring the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem—thus holding in complete disregard the positions and interests of all parties concerned with continuing the peace process, including the United States itself.

The U.S. Congress has failed to conceal its pro-Likud approach, which is opposed to the peace process, and its capitulation to the instigation campaign launched by Israeli ultrarightists, as manifested in the passage of this bill, which could poison the climate of the peace process and harm Washington's policy, particularly since the United States has projected an image of an honest broker in the Middle East conflict.

It might be useless to continue attacking the U.S. Congressional position, which has now become a law binding on President Bill Clinton's administration. This problem requires a coordinated Arab-Islamic effort to put greater pressures on the U.S. Administration, which still has room to maneuver, albeit limited, to discourage compliance with this provocative resolution.

It goes without saying that the Jerusalem issue, a final-status talks topic, is not merely a Palestinian issue, because the hearts and minds of millions of Arabs and Muslims cherish the holy city, which can be either a symbol of peace or a detonator that could draw all historical animosities and irreparably wreck the current peace opportunity.

Given all this, we see a need for a joint Arab-Islamic stand on parliamentary, popular, and official levels. Moreover, we see a need for an Arab summit, and also for a meeting by the Jerusalem Committee in the hopes that this will apply some brakes to the U.S. Congress bill, particularly since the issue is still in the hands of the U.S. Administration, which has publicly opposed this bill because of the substantial damage it could inflict on the peace process.

Al-Watan Party Statement Opposes Confederation

JN2610070595 Amman AL-NIDA' in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Watan Party has issued a statement in which it condemned the suspicious call of Israeli Foreign Minister Peres for establishing a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians. Following is the text of the statement:

Much has been said recently about a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. The statement Shim'on Peres made after the signing of the self-rule accord was the most significant and dangerous one so far. He called for a new, unprecedented type of confederation between the State of Jordan and the Palestinian people.

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We view such calls as an insult to Arab will and dignity; as a new conspiracy against the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples; as a reinforcement of all forms of military, security, and economic occupation; and as the alternative homeland conspiracy, which has surfaced once again to threaten the fragile peace process in the region.

Proceeding from our principles, we in the al-Watan Party completely reject foreign interference, as well as the plans of the new world order and Israel to redraw the map of this region in isolation of the will of the Arab nation.

We also reaffirm that we do not need any assistance or advice from Peres or any other party to reach Arab unity of any kind. Out of our belief in the ability of the Arab individual to overcome the current crisis and the state of humiliation and weakness and to launch a new era of serious, responsible action to build the nation's future anew, we warn the Arab nation of the consequences of estrangement, fragmentation, and preference of private interests to public ones. Hence, we call for closing Arab ranks and building a new Arab order based on mutual respect and the unity of goal, fate, and independence.

On this occasion, we appeal to our one Jordanian and Palestinian people to be alert to the new conspiracy in order to foil it along with Israeli schemes before it is too late.

Proceeding from our principles, we also support and bless any unity between Jordan and any Arab country, particularly if it is between Jordan and Palestine after the full liberation of the Palestinian land and if the Palestinian people regain their legitimate right to establish their independent state on their sacred soil.

Ba'th Party's Dabbur: Economic Summit Serves Israel

JN2410190895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 24 Oct (SANA)—Fu'ad Dabbur, deputy secretary of Jordan's Progressive Arab Ba'th Party's Central Command said that the Amman economic summit does not serve the Arab nation's national and pan-Arab interests.

In a statement distributed here today, Dabbur said that the Amman summit is a result of multilateral negotiations, whose objectives are political in the first place. Moreover, it is one of the most important outcomes of the Wadi al-'Arabah treaty and the Oslo agreement and its appendices. In the statement, Dabbur added that the Zionist enemy will constitute the main element in this summit to achieve its schemes and objectives in terms of political and economic hegemony over the region.

Dabbur said in his statement that Israel wants to achieve many things through this summit. This includes containing the region economically, opening the Arabian Gulf doors to Zionist economic ambitions, obtaining a large share of oil and gas, turning the Middle East into a market for Israeli products, and consecrating the so-called Middle Easternism to destroy the national and pan-Arab identity.

Dabbur notes that Israel, which is obstructing the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, is evading all the prerequisites of a just and comprehensive peace which restores the occupied territories and usurped rights. He adds that through the Amman summit and similar conferences, the Zionist enemy is trying to exert pressure on Syria and Lebanon through political and economic normalization with the Arabs before achieving a real peace based on the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

In the statement, Dabbur says that the Arab nation will not benefit from this conference, noting that it will indeed serve the Zionist-U.S. interests. He adds: We, as Arabs, should serve our Arab nation's interests by achieving Arab economic and political solidarity and cooperation. He says that the joint Arab market, Arab economic integration, and economic and political unity are the sound means to serve the nation's interests and build its strength to confront ambitions and schemes aimed at undermining the Arabs and their future.

Israeli Envoy Notes Peace Treaty Achievements

JN2510212795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir says much has been achieved under the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. The ambassador made the comment at his first press conference in Amman, which marked a year since Jordan and Israel signed the peace treaty. Ambassador Shim'on Shamir said the achievements made can be considered as infrastructure of peace between the two countries. He said several cooperation agreements had been signed and that the two embassies are now operating in both countries. Furthermore, he said the two borders are now open for citizens and tourists from both sides.

[Begin Shamir recording] First, the activities of the embassies that started operating in ordinary manner, devel-

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oping channels of communication, providing services to the local citizens, beginning the granting of visas to various categories. The second accomplishment I listed was the signing of a large number of bilateral agreements that will in the next phase regulate and encourage the cooperation between Israelis and Jordanians in the various fields. And the third accomplishment of this year is the opening of the borders. We are activating now, operating three border passages and the number of people who use these passages in this year, has been using these passages in this year exceeded by far anything we expected. Through these passages, we had 100,000 Israeli tourists coming here to visit Jordan and tens of thousands of Jordanians who crossed to Israel.

To this list of three major achievements I would also include, as an important element of building the infrastructure of peace, the cancellation of boycott by the Jordanian Parliament. [end recording]

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Reaction to U.S. Embassy Move Decision Continues

Prime Minister Comments

NC2510153995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has asserted that the Arabs will never give up Jerusalem and neither will the Vatican. Commenting on the U.S. Senate decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, al-Hariri said this decision will not help the peace process because Jerusalem is the crux of the peace negotiations.

Parliament Speaker Against Move

NC2510132195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Report by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din from B'abda Presidential Palace]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has remarked that many constitutional matters need amendment. He warned, however, that amendments thought to be slight actually pose danger to the country's institutions, much more so than major constitutional changes. He urged everyone to stop raising this dust storm, which cannot in any case deceive the Chamber of Deputies.

Speaker Birri denounced the U.S. decision to transfer its Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Speaker Birri, who was talking to reporters at noon today following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, said:

[Begin Birri recording] First of all, I wish to comment on the U.S. decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. It is regrettable that this decision was offered as a gift to the United Nations on its 50th anniversary. On the very day of the 50th UN anniversary, five or six south Lebanese villages were the target of artillery fire. His excellency the president and myself also discussed the continuing Israeli naval siege of the Lebanese coast and Lebanese fishermen. We expressed hope that the financial compensation approved by the cabinet will be paid to the fishermen. We also voiced hope that money owed to proprietors of buildings currently occupied by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon will be paid. We also discussed the cigarette factories that the Regie company will build. All these matters were causing us worries at a time when we continue to be subjected to Israeli assaults. The U.S. decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem can perhaps be attributed to the approaching U.S. presidential election. At the same time, it signifies a further dismaying siege against the Arab nation, particularly Lebanon and Syria. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shiite Council Denounces Move

NC2510192295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council under his eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shaykh Muhammad Shams-al-Din and attended by all its members has denounced the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It said that this decision expresses a hostile stand toward the Arabs and Muslims. It called for a review of the UN rules to make it more fair in making balanced resolutions and more capable of implementing them.

Buwayz Rejects Participation in Amman Conference

NC2510185095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has told AFP that Lebanon will not take part in the Amman economic conference, which will be held at the end of this month.

Buwayz stressed that Lebanon will not participate in any meetings associated with the multilateral negotiations since the bilateral talks with Israel have not achieved any concrete progress. It will also not participate as long as Israel does not accept the establishment of a just peace based on its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Hizballah Rejects Israeli Proposal on Withdrawal

NC2510204395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Oct b95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has turned down an Israeli proposal that Israel would be ready to hold negotiations concerning a withdrawal from Lebanon after three months of calmness in the south.

In a statement, Hizballah said that the Israeli proposal is not something new and has been rejected by all the Lebanese. Hizballah added that the Resistance will continue as long as there is one single Israeli soldier in the south.

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Article Views King's Scenario for Ruling Iraq

95LH0264 Beirut AL-SHIRA in Arabic 21 Aug 95 pp 22-25

[Unattributed article: King Husayn's Scenario for Ruling Iraq?]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn's Scenario for Ruling Iraq?

Cover Story

On the afternoon of 10 May 1995, an Arab citizen went to the famous Tawrin restaurant in Amman, which was previously known by the English name Smarties, to surprise his friend, the owner of the establishment. He apologized for taking over the entire restaurant at the request of the security services on behalf of a prominent Arab guest. He did this without canceling the invitation he had extended to his friend, the owner of the restaurant, to be his guest at his private table during lunch, so that the owner could oversee the orders of the guests and those accompanying them.

The guests were none other than the Iraqi minister of industrialization and son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, Husayn Hasan Kamil al-Majid; prominent figures from his ministry; and Shakir bin Zayd, head of the accompanying Jordanian delegation.

This was not the first unannounced visit. Amman was an obligatory passageway for every Iraqi official—and most citizens. Passing through Jordan was the only option available to them because other ways of crossing the Syrian, Kuwaiti, Saudi, Iranian, and Turkish frontiers were closed due to political and security considerations.

Jordan continues to be the route Iraqis—especially politicians and officials—must follow to reach the outside world.

This route was the snare that King Husayn set to trap the leading elements of the Iraqi regime. King Husayn did this so that he could, with obvious astuteness [shahama] and generosity, receive as his guest every Iraqi official passing through Jordan to the outside world. He would invite each one of them to join him for lunch, dinner, or for a cup of tea during the afternoon in order to talk about what was happening in Iraq, his personal anxieties, and the state of the blockade and its effects on the citizens of Iraq. The King always volunteered to play the part of an intermediary with the United States so as to solve the enormous problems between Baghdad and Washington. This was especially true after his standing in Washington grew following his signing of a peace treaty with the Zionist enemy on 25 July 1993.

Husayn questioned and probed every visiting Iraqi official about his willingness to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and lift the blockade imposed on the regime. He would add that he was prepared, as a matter of Arab national duty, to request internal Iraqi movement to show Iraqi good intentions toward the United States. More precisely, each time Husayn would ask his guest to speak frankly with President Saddam Husayn about the need for an initiative in the direction of this movement for his own sake and the sake of Iraq.

Husayn would speak sincerely with his official Iraqi visitors in a manner befitting the temperament, demeanor, and mentality of each. If he found someone who agreed with him, Husayn, acting on his experience with men, would offer more suggestions and advice. Husayn Kamil was the most frequent visitor at the table of Husayn bin Talal. When traveling abroad, he always passed through Jordan coming and going from Iraq. Several considerations account for the attention that was focused on this very important man in the Iraqi regime:

—First, he is the son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, the supreme strongman and ruler of Iraq, who became vice president in 1970 and has been president since 1980. This means that he has been in power for a quarter of a century since seizing control of the regime in 1969.

—Second, he is well informed about the basic secrets of the Iraqi state with respect to the army, its armed forces, and their equipment, military industrialization, and the dangerous material used to make weapons of mass destruction.

—Third, he is the principal figure in charge of the Republican Guard, the backbone of the Iraqi military regime. The importance of the third point derives from the fact that Husayn Kamil is indeed the one who built this guard, with the absolute support of Saddam Husayn. He is the one who transformed it from a flimsy brigade, which was, so to speak, one of the foundations of the Iraqi opposition, into a large army of 100,000 fighters divided into 37 brigades, most of which are under the command of members of his family and tribe.

Husayn Kamil succeeded in building the Republican Guard, the Military Industrial Organization, the presidents Special Security force, and in gaining the confidence of the president, which led to him becoming related by marriage to the president.

—Fourth, he is a soldier, Sunni, pan-Arabist [urubi] from Tikrit, and a member of the presidents family. According to the checks and balances of the Arab-international political system, these are the necessary qualifications for any future president of Iraq. The name

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of Husayn Kamil had previously pushed aside several other names, among them Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Naqib and Lt. Gen. Rafiq al-Samarrai, both of whom are Sunni pan-Arab soldiers from Samarra, one of the five towns from which the Iraqi Army has drawn most of its commanders during the last 50 years. The other four towns are Mosul, Tikrit, Ana, and Falujah. An acronym taken from the first letter of the name of each town spells tyrannical [mutaassif].

—Fifth, he is a young man who stands out for his bravery, violence, and intelligence (even if his education is limited: the only language he speaks well is the colloquial Iraqi dialect.) All these factors led King Husayn to focus his attention on Husayn Kamil so that he could draw him to his side [istiqtabihi]. The opportunity to do this increased when Husayn Kamil started giving King Husayn his first in [bada yumsiku awwal al-khayt] by talking about the inevitable conflict between the centers of power inside the Iraqi regime, the ruling family, and the home of the president.

King Husayn gathered information on all this, waiting for an opening and a disclosure at just the right moment. He did this as would any veteran party politician intent on winning over a candidate when all the conditions fell into place for him to join his political party.

When dissension appeared at the decision-making level inside the president's home between Uday, the son, and Husayn, the son-in-law, and Uday became the most important center of power and Husayn a minor center of power, a breakdown became inevitable. In particular, Husayn Kamil complained to King Husayn about Uday's influence, power and [?] in everything in Iraq. [Note: The third word in the series here is undecipherable.] When the time came and Uday decided to purge Husayn Kamil (See elsewhere in this issue for a related story.), Husayn Kamil decided to flee to King Husayn. And so it was.

Why Jordan?

It is known that Jordan was the creation of one of the sons of Sharif Husayn the Hashemite, who installed his sons as rulers of the Arab East after his defeat in the Arabian peninsula following the revolt of 1916. After his defeat in 1920, King Faysal I (head of the Arab state in Syria that had its capital in Damascus) went to Iraq so that he and his sons after him could rule that land. When his brother Abdullah headed from Iraq to Syria to reestablish Hashemite rule there, the English advised him to remain in the east bank of Palestine so that the Palestinian-Syrian Jordan River would become a separation between Palestine, the state the British occupied in the west, and an eastern territory where it would be possible to establish an emirate that was originally known as the Emirate of Transjordan. (The English were the ones who set the political course for the Hashemite family from the moment they assumed the political burden early in this century of opposing the Ottoman state.) One of the sons of Sharif Husayn would assume control of Transjordan instead of heading for Damascus because it had fallen under French control and, especially, because of the peace treaty that the British and French had concluded following disputes over partitioning the legacy of the Ottoman Empire. It was no political coincidence that, in accordance with the Sykes Picot agreement of 1916, the establishment of political entities in Greater Syria was proclaimed as follows: Lebanon (1920), Jordan (1927), the Balfour Declaration in Palestine (1917).

Abdullah and Faysal established themselves as the rulers of Jordan and Iraq, respectively, so that their rule would be passed on after them in a hereditary fashion as follows:

—In Iraq, Faysal was succeeded by Ghazi and then by Faysal [II], who was overthrown by the revolution of 14 July 1958 that was led by Abd al-Salaam Arif.

In Jordan, Abdullah was succeeded by Talal, whose mental illness and well-known Arab nationalist tendencies raised doubts about him. After he was declared legally incompetent, his wife, Zayn, took charge of the affairs of state and laid the groundwork for her son, Husayn, who came to power in 1952 and is still on the throne.

Relations between Jordan and Iraq have passed through periods of intense disputes, whose nature was determined by the character of both regimes. These conflicts sometimes reached the point where the two regimes threatened one another with war and violent acts. Other times, the two regimes unified their countries, as happened in 1957 when preparations were being made for the unification of Egypt and Syria in 1958. And then, suddenly, the two Hashemite kings who were cousins, Faysal and Husayn, established a Hashemite union between Iraq and Jordan that preceded the establishment of the United Arab Republic.

While the monarchical political system in Jordan has stabilized under the rule of one man for 43 years, Iraq has witnessed since the fall of the monarchy a number of rulers beginning with Abd al-Karim Qasim, who was followed by Abd al-Salaam Arif, then Abd al-Rahman Arif, then Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, and, finally, by Saddam Husayn, who became the sole ruler of Iraq in 1980.

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Between Saddam Husayn and King Husayn

Iraqi-Jordanian relations during the era of Saddam Husayn witnessed years of strange tasting honey for both countries. The honey had a bitter taste for the Iraqis as a people and for their institutions. Iraq is the wealthiest country in the world in terms of water, oil, date palms, fertile land, and people who are vibrant because of their culture, work, generosity [ata], fighting spirit [qital], literature, poetry, and recitation [qiraa] of the Koran. The honey had a sweet taste for Jordan, even though it is a yellow island in an arid desert surrounded by unending threats from within, without, and across its borders...

The first Gulf war against Iran, which began a few months after Saddam came to power as the sole ruler in Baghdad, was a good omen for Jordan and its regime. Jordan was the main beneficiary of that war, during which the country witnessed unnatural progress in its economy, culture, and services sector [khidmati]. That progress coincided with Lebanon's declining role in regional affairs during the civil war and the economic blockade imposed on Syria.

Jordan was the point of entry through which Iraq imported its huge needs during the war. Jordanian and Arab trucks traveled the Amman-Baghdad road as intensively as regular taxis traveled the streets of Baghdad during the same period.

It is said—and the secrets in this regard have not yet been made public—that King Husayn was one of the first to encourage Saddam Husayn to go to war against Iran. Perhaps the reasons for this became known after the war.

King Husayn was likewise the first to encourage Saddam to invade Kuwait on 2 August 1995. Perhaps the reasons for this also became known.

These years of honey made King Husayn an honored guest in Iraq, so much so that, out of respect for him, Saddam reconsidered the Hashemite royal family, the uncles and cousins of King Husayn. Saddam, together with King Husayn, visited the royal cemetery and laid a garland of roses on the tomb of Faysal, the last Hashemite king of Iraq. He returned the possessions of the royal family to its remaining members who are now moving back and forth between Jordan, Britain, and the United States. He offered to turn over the royal palace to any one of them who wished to return to Baghdad.

One of the curious features of these years of honey was that they witnessed a new reconsideration of the idea of unifying Iraq and Jordan, but with a change of name from the Hashemite to the Arab Union.

The Arab Cooperation Council

This, however, was not entirely unusual and was partially realized when the two parties established the Arab Cooperation Council, which both Egypt and Yemen joined. It was clear that this idea was entirely the brainchild of King Husayn and a Jordanian invention designed to satisfy the conceit and ambitions of Saddam Husayn after finishing his war with Iran stronger and more vigorous than he was before. On the other hand, a Jordanian-Egyptian letter was sent to the Gulf states asking for more aid. Another letter was sent to Syria because the Syrians rejected the logic and basis of the Iraq-Iran war on the grounds that it led to the shedding of Muslim blood and because Syria called for reviving the logic of confronting the Zionist enemy and no one else.

Next, the Invasion of Kuwait

Here we must talk about King Husayn's role—and not, as some imagine, April Glaspie's—in encouraging Saddam Husayn to invade Kuwait. King Husayn's influence on Saddam was much greater than that of a mere female ambassador who barely knew a few words of Arabic.

Logic dictates that, if the United States wanted to embroil Saddam in Kuwait to the extent that he became involved there in order to eliminate in the role Iraq played in regional affairs [dawr], its enormous capabilities, its youth, and ambitions, it is preposterous to think that the United States would have done this through a female ambassador. It is logical, therefore, that the United States, who was thoroughly familiar with the details of the years of honey between King Husayn and Saddam, would have done this through King Husayn. Perhaps the United States itself devised part of the scenario of the years of honey between the two states, including the first war and even more the second!

The king of Jordan also wanted to embroil Iraq so that it would not direct its ambitions after the war—in which it considered itself the victor—toward Jordan and eliminate that state as an independent political entity. He did this because of the growing political movements in Jordan that sympathized with Iraq during its war against Iran. The Islamists and Arab nationalists of Jordan sided heart and soul with Iraq, as did the masses of the Jordanian people, its tribes and businessmen who benefited from every tie to Iraq.

Kuwait, of Course, and Not Palestine.

Through Kuwait, King Husayn threatened the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thereby strengthening his far-reaching political ambitions.

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In order to reach Palestine, he had to take possession of Jordan in a brotherly, if not military, way and eliminate it in both cases.

So let it be Kuwait. Saddam thus fell into the trap that King Husayn set for him. The invasion was followed by the destruction of Iraq, and then by the continuous blockade. The largest beneficiary is always King Husayn of Jordan—the passageway leading to and from Iraq.

Into that trap fell the policy makers and leaders of Iraq, including Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid.

Where Is the Danger?

A danger threatens the unity of Iraq in the form of a revived scenario of dividing that land between the Kurdish north, the south subject to Iranian pressures, and the center subject to an Arab ambition led by King Husayn himself.

A danger threatens the capabilities of Iraq in the form of Husayn Kamil telling the United States and Israel through King Husayn everything they want to know about this Arab land, that will return democratically to the possession of its people and their vital forces however long or short the present regime ultimately lasts.

It was a calamity that Turkey could seize northern Iraq whenever it wanted on the pretext of combating the Kurds. If Turkey previously obtained the explicit or implicit permission of Baghdad to do this, the fact that she has recently stopped asking for permission and started going in and out whenever she wanted is an important indication of Turkey's ability and willingness to violate the sovereignty of this Arab country in this shameless fashion.

Another indication is that, for the first time in Turkey's history and her conflict with the Kurds, Turkey was the one who tried to initiate a reconciliation between the two Kurdish parties fighting for control, money, and influence in occupied northern Iraq: the Kurdistan Democratic Party under the leadership of Masud al-Barzani and the Kurdistan National Party under the leadership of Jalal al-Talabani.

Turkey brought the two of them together in Dublin, the Irish capital, while the United States guaranteed the implementation of their agreement after the negotiations. A new party known as the Turcomans was inserted into the equation. They form the majority in the oil-rich Governorate of Kirkuk in Iraq.

As part of this settlement, Turkey guarantees the cessation of operations by the Kurdistan Workers Party. Turkey does this by leaving this matter to the Kurds themselves and by guaranteeing direct involvement for itself in the political, geographical, and oil affairs of Iraq. As a reminder, we reiterate that the Turkish press itself has published a document concerning a program submitted by the late president of the Turkish republic, Turgut Ozal. That program decreed that Ankara would take control of the Governorate of Mosul in northern Iraq during the battles between the international coalition forces, under the leadership of the United States and Iraq, that began on 17 January 1991. As Ozal stated, this would occur as part of the anticipated partition of Iraq.

The Blockade of Syria

While following the steps of this scenario, we cannot ignore the objective of blockading Syria. Syria has known since the beginning that comprehensive nationalist-Islamic-Kurdish cooperation would be needed to bring the situation in Iraq under control. Such cooperation would create a popular democratic alternative acceptable to all in place of—but not derived from—the present regime.

Syria's haste to dissociate herself from any future role for Husayn Kamil in the nationalist opposition was an indication of the clarity of her vision. Damascus also does not fail to see that any settlement would be designed by the United States, Jordan, and Turkey. Syria welcomed the Islamic opposition in the person of Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, President of the Supreme Council, so as to pave the way for the announcement of a comprehensive nationalist-Islamic Kurdish Iraqi front.

Damascus knows that King Husayn has been charged with a large regional role after the peace he made with the Zionist enemy. Together with Arafat, he is hurrying to tighten the blockade of Syria and siding with Israel against Arafat. The true state of affairs is weighted against the Palestinians. (This is another matter that would require a lengthy explanation.) He is siding with the United States against Iraq and the Islamic groups that oppose a settlement with the Zionist enemy.

Has King Husayn's role in his game with Husayn Kamil become clear? Has the standing of Husayn Kamil in this game become known? The fate of Iraq as a nation and its capabilities has always been and remains more important than the fate of the regime, whatever its fate may have been.

May God protect Iraq and its people from its rulers—and from King Husayn.

[Begin box]

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A Danger to the Regime..No, A Danger to Iraq..Certainly

Does the defection of Husayn Kamil constitute a danger to the Iraqi regime?

—Observers, most of whom come from the Iraqi opposition abroad, are unanimous about one thing: There is no danger to the Iraqi regime after the defection of Saddam Husayn's son-in-law. Had there been any hope for a change, Husayn Kamil would have been capable of making it happen by killing the president and his son Uday while he was in Baghdad inside the home of the ruling family. However, as long as he fled to Amman, there was no danger to the regime, even though it was a blow to morale because the defection came from inside the ruling family. What remains is more of a danger to Iraq than to the regime.

How?

—Because Husayn Kamil possesses important information that was discussed between himself and the president only. Under the direction of the president, he worked on Iraq's military and industrial secrets that have been hidden from the International Sanctions Committee for the last five years. Those secrets will become the object of bargaining with him. What is significant is that Husayn Kamil in his coming weak state will fall into the grip of the United States and reveal what he knows about these secrets, so that Iraq will pay the price. Even if he did not fall into U.S. control, he—because his fate will eventually become clear—is a lemon that will be squeezed and then thrown into the trash bin.

Husayn Kamil is too weak to do any damage to the Iraqi regime from Amman, unless Washington and King Husayn could entice Saddam to undertake a new adventure toward Jordan so that, on the one hand, what remains of Iraqi capabilities could be smashed and, on the other, so that the door would be opened to the greatest danger of all: the partitioning of Iraq between the neighboring states. This is one of the objectives of King Husayn...Perhaps (Return to the scenario.)

[end box]

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Radio, Press View U.S. Decision To Move Embassy

Decision Reveals 'Zionist' Control

JN2510151695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Senate and House of Representatves yesterday voted for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem by 31 May 1999. This decision conflicts with historical facts, the resolutions of the United Nations, whose 50th anniversary celebrations were held on U.S. territory, and the interests of the United States itself. The abovementioned decision reveals how much hegemony and control the Zionist lobby has over the U.S. decisionmaking. It is a blow to all U.S. statements on democracy, human rights, and world peace.

President Bill Clinton has threatened to use the veto or take any measures within his power to oppose this decision because he is well aware of the extent to which it jeopardizes the U.S. credibility and interests in the international arena and the threat it poses to Middle East peace. The U.S. initiative and the Madrid conference were originally based on full adherence to international legitimacy, Security Council resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and the U.S. pledge to act as a partner and unbiased sponsor of the peace process.

The U.S. opposition to President Clinton has placed its personal and electoral interests above the U.S. national interests. The question that poses itself is: How did those congressmen vote for the bill, knowing that in doing so they would be placing foreign interests above the U.S. national interests. Who gave them the right to disregard international legitimacy resolutions, particularly Resolution 252 issued in 1968, which declares that by taking unified Jerusalem as a Jewish capital, Israel is committing an illegal act.

Those who approved the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem have proved that they do not seek peace and that, on the contrary, they seek to undermine it. The abovementioned decision will seriously harm the U.S. role in the peace process because it conflicts with the role of the fair mediator and full partner. Therefore, the Congressional approval of the bill constitutes an attempt to sabotage the role of the U.S. Administration and an attempt to damage the U.S. credibility in the region.

Undoubtedly, those who voted for the decision are very well aware that Jerusalem is a cornerstone on the Palestinian track and in the peace process. They also realize that Jerusalem is an issue that concerns all Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, and not just the Palestinians. Thus, the decision is a slap in the face of all of them. How does this serve the U.S. interests? Peace in the Middle East is part of world peace. Any view of the U.S. interests outside this peace framework will not serve the United States or its interests

If the U.S. Administration is still serious about realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and in continuing to assume the role of a fair mediator, then this entails that it should prevent the implementation of this bill in order to preserve the U.S. credibility and the peace process in the region as a whole.

Move Called 'Blow' to U.S.

JN2610074095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the adverse and serious repercussions of the bill passed by the U.S. Congress, which approves the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem by the end of May 1999, saying: The lesson that can be learned from this decision is that the Zionist lobby in the United States has dealt a blow aimed at harassing the U.S. Administration, which seeks to examine the Arab-Israeli conflict from a U.S. rather than Israeli perspective. The rancorous decision by the Congress has dealt a blow to the efforts of the U.S. Administrations, which chose to pursue an independent U.S. policy in the Middle East region rather than an Israeli policy. It is as though this decision was meant to rehabilitate the United States' utter bias in favor of Israel's falsehoods and the Zionists' ambitions of controlling the region's resources. This decision is apparently designed to legitimize Israel's aggression.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Congress' rancorous decision has fomented skepticism over the U.S. policy toward Arabs and Muslims. This issue could turn highly emotional and produce unfavorable results, given the significance of Jerusalem to all Arabs and Muslims.

AL-BA'TH cautions against the consequences of this decision, saying: The decision poses grave dangers to the peace process. Moreover, it adversely affects relations between the United States and Arab and Muslim states. The decision provokes the sentiments of Arabs, Muslims, and Christians all over the world, as well as their religious beliefs.

AL-BA'TH says that this blind U.S. bias in favor of Israel must be curbed, and that the frequent moves to reward the aggressor to the detriment of the injured party must be stopped. Moreover, there should be compliance with the relevant international legitimacy

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resolutions, which were supported by the United States, including the resolutions that deem Jerusalem occupied Arab territory from which Israel must withdraw.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same issue, saying: The decision has dealt a treacherous blow to peace, which has become elusive, thanks to Israel's evasion of its requirements and components.

The paper adds that the decision reflects blind bias in favor of Israel and its schemes. It is meant to placate the Zionist lobby in the United States, the paper maintains.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that the decision will usher in the start of a Zionist war against Islam and Muslims, as well as against Christianity and Christians, with untold consequences if the peace process, which is tottering under Israeli intransigence, collapses.

In another commentary on the same issue, AL-THAWRAH says: It must be emphasized that Jerusalem is an Arab city in terms of features, landmarks, and identity, and that it will remain so despite the deception, misrepresentation of facts, and forgery the Israelis have carried out to justify their presence in the holy city and their occupation of that city. The Israelis must realize that Congress' decision will not change hard facts, and that it will not legitimize their continued occupation of Jerusalem. Nor will it, for that matter, make the Arabs, headed by Syria, budge by a single hair from their stand, which is opposed to any solution falling short of returning all occupied territories to their lawful owners, particularly Jerusalem, the Golan, and southern Lebanon.

Bill Said 'Affront' to UN Resolutions

JN2610104895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 26 Oct (SANA) — Today's newspapers comment in their editorials on the rancorous and provocative U.S. Congressional bill to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. They also comment on Israel's attempts to eschew the U.S. peace initiative. [passage omitted]

In another commentary headlined "Why Rewarding the Aggressors," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. Congress bill has raised many questions regarding the moral and human values advocated by some Americans. It is also a stab to international principles of right and justice, and an affront to the UN and Security Council resolutions — which stipulate that Israeli measures of annexation and Judaization in Jerusalem are null and void and will have no effect on Arab historical and political rights in this holy city.

The paper asserts: The bill rewards the aggressor in violation of all international charters and norms, and disparages Arabs' feelings, rights, and dignity in an unacceptable manner. At any rate, this a wrong and unjustified decision that will only give rise to feelings of disappointment and frustration. It will also create a tense atmosphere that will not help stabilize Arab-American relations and will in no way serve the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East.

The paper maintains: It is important for the U.S. Administration to take the necessary measures to hinder the implementation of the bill on the ground. It should contain any Israeli attempts to employ the said bill in its campaign to move the embassies of other states to Jerusalem. Above all, the U.S. Administration should make Israel realize that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Arab territories to which Resolutions 242 and 338 apply on equal footing with the rest of the occupied Arab territories. Therefore, the Congress' passing of the bill does not mean a recognition of the legitimacy of Israel's occupation of Jerusalem, nor does it entail encroachment upon Arab rights there.

Minister: No Regional Cooperation With Israel Before Peace

NC2510213295 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 10

[Report by Yusuf Hilal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Muhammad al-'Amawi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, has stressed that his country refuses to participate in the Amman economic summit at the end of this month or in any conference called for on the basis of the so-called multilateral talks [for peace in the Middle East].

In a statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF, al-'Amawi said that Syria rejects any form of economic cooperation with Israel before the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region.

He pointed out that Syria is seeking peace. It participated in the Madrid peace conference and is still struggling to achieve peace, he said. But we want peace to be based on UN resolutions and charters, he added.

The Syrian economy minister called on the Arab countries to support Syria in its current peace negotiations with Israel. He noted that some Arab states are seeking trade projects and relations with Israel to achieve some economic benefits without heeding the general Arab interest.

Dr. al-'Amawi also rejected the idea of a Middle East market, stressing that Syria encourages only the call for

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a common Arab market. He said Syria is still committed to the Arab League decisions boycotting all Israeli commodities. There will be no talk about [abolishing] this boycott before reaching a complete agreement to achieve peace between Syria and Israel, he said.

Israel Blamed for 'Deterioration' of Peace Process

JN2610085895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN addresses Israel's evasion of the U.S. initiative, saying: Israel has continued to place obstacles and difficulties in the way of the peace process. Likewise, it has constantly sought to circumvent the requirements, components, and prerequisites of the peace process, which are enshrined in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. Israel has failed to subscribe to the notion of complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, the paper notes.

The paper adds: Israel aims to achieve partial deals and separate solutions to promote its interests, perpetuate its occupation of the territories and control their economic resources. It is shunning the quest for just and comprehensive peace. Such deals and solutions cannot achieve security or stability, nor can they uphold justice or fairness.

The paper holds Israel responsible for the current deterioration in the regional state of affairs, and also for the failure of the peace process, particularly since it has thus far evaded the requirements and components of peace, as well as the fundamental aspects of the U.S. initiative.

Israeli Action in Southern Lebanon Criticized

JN2510175295 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 9

["An Opinion" column: "The Deep-rooted Aggressiveness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has escalated the climate of tension in southern Lebanon in a very noticeable way. The Israeli war machine continued to bombard Lebanese villages and farms with various destructive weapons, inflicting further material and human losses in an area which has not enjoyed tranquility for years because of the Israeli leaders' deep-root aggressiveness.

Strangely, the twisted Israeli logic insists on interfering in the Lebanese affairs and on keeping the southern part under Israeli control and a constant base for aggression. What is even stranger is the fact that this aggressive logic of the Tel Aviv rulers is not confronted by any international position or action to restore the situation to normal. Israel is escalating the situation by insisting on continuing the daily attacks against the Lebanese areas and destroying all forms of life by experimenting with its destructive weapons there. Israel also insists on rejecting Resolution 425 which calls for complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Israel insists on occupation, murdering the Lebanese and interfering in their domestic affairs, and depriving them of the chance to earn their living by imposing a naval siege and destroying crops. Despite all that, it demands an end to the national resistance, otherwise the Lebanese will be damned.

The Israeli officials are deliberately ignoring facts when they call for halting the activities of the national resistance while they maintain their occupation of southern Lebanon. Any people whose land has been occupied must defend it with all the strength and determination they have. The Israeli occupation produced the national resistance and not vice versa. Without the occupation, the border area would have been enjoying tranquility.

The people of Lebanon are armed with Resolution 425. They have decided that they will continue to defend their land until they liberate it, and this is a right which no international law can deny.

Justice Minister Meets Iranian Counterpart

LD2510210595 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 25, IRNA [dateline as received] — Syrian minister of justice, Husayn Hassun, said in Damascus on Tuesday [24 October] evening that the Islamic Republic of Iran derives its strength from Islam and the Muslims worldwide.

Hassun in his meeting with Iranian deputy minister of justice, Gholam-Hoseyn Vahedi, said Syria is ready to cooperate with Iran in all areas.

He voiced Syrian willingness to enjoy Iranian experience in judicial issues.

Vahedi briefed the Syrian minister of justice on the judicial system in Iran.

Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Forughi was also present in the meeting.

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Afghanistan

Radio Reports on 'Fierce' Taleban Infighting

LD2510195295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fierce fighting has recently flared up in Charkh region, Lowgar Province, between the two commanders of the Taleban group.

Quoting a source of the armed forces, the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the clash took place when a large number of men attached to commander Jalaloddin Haqani had fled the Taleban's front line. In the course of this clash, a commander of Jalaloddin Haqani — Mohammad Ehsan — together with a number of his men were killed. [Words indistinct]

Eyewitnesses say that so far 17 youngsters have been abducted from the villages in the south of Kabul. No report is available on the fate of these people.

The Taleban in Chahar Asiab are preventing normal movement of the inhabitants. They even cannot travel from one village to another. Discontent among the people against the alien's servants has reached a climax.

Radio on 'Foiled' Taleban Attack, Bombers' Raid

LD2510180195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the mercenary Taleban group was foiled this morning around Band-e Ghazi area [35 km east of Kabul].

An armed forces source reported to Bakhtar that this morning the mercenary Taleban group launched an unsuccessful attack around Band-e Ghazi from the southeast. As a result of this attack, dozens of the Taleban men were killed and injured. It was also reported that two heavy weapons systems were destroyed during this morning's clash.

According to another report, the country's bomber aircraft this morning dropped bombs on concentration points of the Taleban in Zakhera region of Chahar Asiab. As a result of the attack a large number of the mercenary Taleban were killed or injured. No report is yet available on the exact loss of life caused by this morning's bombardment.

Bangladesh

Zia Urges World Leaders To Help With Ganges Issue

BK2410065595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has urged world leaders to help Bangladesh resolve the acute Farakka problem caused by the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges River water by India. She was addressing the special commemorative session of the United Nations at New York last night on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the world body. Raising the Farakka problem at the UN for the second time, Khaleda Zia said over 40 million Bangladeshis have been facing poverty and loss owing to the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges River water by India. Describing the Farakka problem as the life and death issue of the people of Bangladesh, she said despite the best efforts being made by us, it is unfortunate that this problem has remained unresolved. The prime minister first raised this problem in the world body in the year 1993. Khaleda Zia termed the Indian attitude toward the Farakka question as a gross violation of human rights and justice.

She said the loss of the water during the dry season results in severe droughts, while the release of excess water during the rainy season causes devastating floods in large areas of Bangladesh. The prime minister said apart from causing huge economic losses, this situation is also having a disastrous effect on the environment and the ecology. This obstruction of the normal flow of water from the upper reaches of the river has resulted in a process of desertification in the northern and western regions of the country. The prime minister said trees in the western region are becoming damaged and salinity is increasing in the area. As a result, both industries and agriculture are facing ruination. Apart from this, the fisheries and livestock resources are also facing extinction.

She said in view of the large-scale conflicts and the gross violations of human rights and justice around the world, many people may raise questions regarding the logic behind the existence of the United Nations. Khaleda Zia expressed grave concern over the increase in aggression against small states, the bloody conflicts, the ethnic violence, and also the incidents relating to the denial of the rights of countries located downstream over the waters of common rivers. She said despite these problems, the people of the world have not yet been able to form a more effective forum than the United Nations. The prime minister of Bangladesh stressed the need to strengthen the United Nations with a view to achieving its objectives. She said the 50th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations has created an opportunity to review the success of the organization and move it forward after making it more powerful. Khaleda Zia also emphasized the need to permanently set up a peacekeeping force in view of the increase in the activities of the UN peacekeeping forces. She said this type of force is needed to protect the territorial integrity of the member states and establish peace. In

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this connection, she referred to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The prime minister of Bangladesh expressed full support for the proposal to reform and restructure the United Nations. Referring to the circumstances of the least developed countries, Khaleda Zia called for urgent steps to address their problems of debt and poverty and obstacles relating to trade.

Zia Returns After UN Session

BK2610072195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned to Dhaka this morning after attending the 50th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations in New York. She was received at the Zia International Airport by cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

During her visit to the United States, Begum Zia addressed the special session of the UN General Assembly. Despite, addressing the special session, the prime minister had an exclusive meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. She attended a dinner arranged by First Lady Hillary Clinton. Bangladesh prime minister also held separate meetings with South African President Nelson Mandela, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, President of Bosnia- Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic, and Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Dueba.

Daily Hails Iran's Offer of Help on Ganges Issue

BK2510142795 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 13 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Rafsanjani on Ganges Issue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting Iranian President Hojjat-ol Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has expressed his willingness to extend a helping hand in solving Bangladesh's drought and flood that result from meagre flow or heavy onrush of waters from the upstream through international river Ganges, dealing with the issue through Iran's good offices with India.

The assurance of help to solve Ganges issue came in the discussions on regional and international issues of common interest and bilateral cooperation held between President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Begun Khaleda Zia. President Rafsanjani wanted to know the cause of severe floods in Bangladesh and inquired about the Ganges water-sharing problem. Prime Minister Begum Zia apprised the Iranian President that heavy onrush of waters from upstream was aggravating the current flooding and causing untold sufferings to the people of Bangladesh. She also explained to him that withdrawal of waters during dry season also causes severe drought and crop damage.

We are confident that the good prospects of cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh will lead to effectual mediation by Iran on the Ganges issue for three good reasons. First, Rafsanjani, over a span of six years as the President of Iran, has proved to the world that he has extraordinary capabilities to move out of global isolation of sorts to the need for getting in greater and wider touch and to ooze out and earn friendship with his smiles and strong character. A steadfast personality and religious scholar, he says what he means and is bent on doing good. Secondly, President Rafsanjani has been able to establish good relationship with India which is based on mutual respect between Iran and India. Finally, President Rafsanjani's good wishes are well understood as he was so kind to visit Bangladesh first as Begum Zia could not make time to visit Iran owing to state business and agreed to use Iran's good relations with India for a permanent solution to our Ganges-related problems. There is no doubt that President Rafsanjani wants the betterment of Bangladesh from the core of his heart.

We are hopeful that the good offices of President Rafsanjani will help break the ice; and a long-term agreement which has been the crying need for the last several years would be arrived at to relax India's unilateral control of waters from the Ganges. We thank him for suggesting that Bangladesh could be benefited through the application of international rules and regulations on common rivers. We note with gratitude that he has the empathy for our right to get the just share of water from the international river Ganges.

The friendship between Bangladesh and Iran is growing. May it be mentioned in passing that the Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh deserves plaudits for bolstering economic and cultural cooperation. Let us hope, once the political stalemate is over and the Prime Minister manages time to visit Iran, the tie between Bangladesh and Iran will strengthen further and President Rafsanjani's willingness to help us solve the Ganges issue will wax firmer.

Daily Hails Outcome of Iranian President's Visit

BK2310141195 Dhaka JANAKANTHA in Bengali 16 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Dhaka-Tehran Joint Communique"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Rafsanjani's recently concluded four-day official visit to Bangladesh paved the way for realizing the aims and objectives of the joint commission set up between Bangladesh and Iran six years ago in 1989. The joint communique issued

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simultaneously from Dhaka and Tehran following the Iranian president's visit notes, among other things, the consensus between the two countries on making efforts under the joint commission to expand the sphere of bilateral cooperation. The joint communique also mentions the agreement between the two countries on holding the commission's meeting between 11 and 13 November in Tehran. A stalemate has prevailed for the last six years, especially for the last three or four years, concerning remittances of Bangladeshi doctors, engineers, and thousands of other skilled and unskilled workers, and the export of more Bangladeshi manpower to Iran. The next meeting of the joint commission is expected to remove this stalemate.

The joint communique welcomes the signing of memorandums of understanding between Bangladesh and Iran for cooperation between the public and private sector companies of the two countries in sectors such as electrical equipment, oil refinery, brick machinery, cement, clinker, liquefied petroleum gas, bitumen, rolling mill, utensil production, shipbuilding, pipeline manufacturing, jute industry and jute goods, steel structure, and food items. The communique also mentions an agreement on initiating necessary measures by the airlines of the two countries to establish air links. In short, it provides the necessary framework for strengthening overall relations between the two countries.

In keeping with traditional and age-old religious and cultural ties, the two countries are moving toward a closer relationship which will contribute further to the economic prosperity and welfare of their peoples. It is not out of context to mention here that during his visit, President Rafsanjani liked the fruits of Bangladesh such as bananas and jack fruit very much, as well as the Bangladeshi ricksha, the no-fuel vehicle, and took with him some of these as samples to his own country. Rafsanjani's interest in Bangladeshi fruits and ricksha might be surprising to us since Iran itself has an abundance of fruit such as grapes and apples, and it is a country which is educationally and technically advanced. President Rafsanjani's keen interest in items which we consider as very ordinary reveals that these things might be objects of great interest in foreign countries. Perhaps we cannot yet comprehend to what extent cooperation between the two countries can be expanded. For the time being, only seven memorandums of understanding have been signed.

Noting the two countries' desire to expand the scope of their bilateral ties, the joint communique also mentions their resolve to work together for regional and international stability and peace. When this country was under the colonial-type rule of Pakistan, we used to view the Organization of Regional Cooperation and Development — RCD — and the "Baghdad Pact" with suspicion. This was justified given the situation then prevailing. However, now, under a changed regional and international situation, there is no justification for viewing any regional cooperation forum with Iran or any Middle Eastern country or any agreement with the same perspective.

It is clear from President Rafsanjani's friendly remarks that Iran wants to see democracy prosper in Bangladesh. When Iran speaks of working together with Bangladesh for stability and peace, then it must also be in the interest of democracy and development of Bangladesh. The need to work together to eliminate nuclear and destructive weapons, and to create an atmosphere free from fear and apprehension to ensure world peace and strengthen the foundations of humanity has become all the more imperative in the post-Cold War era. The call made in the Dhaka-Tehran joint communique for a nondiscriminatory and universal mechanism for a comprehensive and general disarmament to maintain international peace and security should, therefore, not be considered merely a slogan or a passing remark.

In the joint communique, the two countries meaningfully stressed their responsibility to work for total disarmament, especially the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Simultaneously, the two countries have called on all countries of the region to promote constructive cooperation for peace. It should be mentioned here that a tripartite agreement on a transit facility involving Turkmenistan was signed during the Iranian leader's visit. This is consistent with the spirit of the Dhaka-Tehran joint communique. The agreement leaves no scope for misinterpretation nor does it allow any quarter to criticize it on the pretext of violation of Bangladesh's sovereignty.

Both Iran and Bangladesh expressed their firm belief that any existing regional problems can be solved through negotiations. It is worth mentioning that the Iranian leader assured cooperation with Bangladesh, and used his good offices with India to resolve a dispute on the Ganges river water sharing. The call in the joint communique to resolve all regional disputes through negotiations is of special significance to all our neighbors, including India, for resolving disputes between neighbors and developing good relations among them.

What is most important is that President Rafsanjani's visit and the joint communique between the two countries provided us with an opportunity to have a very clear and optimistic idea about Iran's present foreign policy and its strategy to develop bilateral relations. This great friendly Asian country has pledged vigorous cooperation in ensuring our prosperous future and maintaining peace and stability. The joint communique serves

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as an authentic document on these issues. We welcome it and believe that the two countries will enjoy lasting cooperation and an enduring friendship.

Zia Views Proposals To Resolve Political Stalemate

BK2110083995 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said that the people of Bangladesh have rejected the negative politics of strike of the opposition parties. She said the people have become victims of untold miseries due to the strikes. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka today, the prime minister said the people are firmly behind the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] government. After returning from the UN assembly session in New York, she will announce several political programs aimed at safeguarding the rights of the common man. These rights are being violated due to strike called by the opposition parties.

Begum Zia said her government has already given a political proposal in accordance with the constitutional framework of the republic. She said under no circumstances can her government find a extra-constitutional solution. She added that in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the interim prime minister and cabinet must be appointed from among the MP's and added that the Constitution does not give permission to those who are not MPs to become prime minister. Khaleda Zia said that in accordance with the proposal of her government, the opposition can nominate five of their representatives to be being elected members of the parliament through by-elections. These five opposition MP's along with five MP's nominated by the BNP can form the interim cabinet. She added that this is a clear direction aimed at overcoming the present situation.

When asked whether she will make any new proposals to remove the confusion which has arisen due to opposition activities on the streets, the prime minister said she will make a statement on this at the right time. In reply to a question, Khaleda Zia said her government is always willing to sit with an open mind with the opposition to find a solution to the present situation through dialogue. In reply to another question, the prime minister said that whether by-elections or general elections are held, the Election Commission will announce the election schedule. However, she added that the government will go ahead with the elections in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. When asked about the initiative taken by the five eminent citizens, the prime minister said that as they have suggested, her government is not opposed to holding talks with the opposition. These eminent citizens have advised that the two sides should hold talks without any agenda.

When asked why the government is not declaring the flood-affected districts of the northern region as calamity areas as it would help get foreign aid, the prime minister said there is no need for this. We can face this situation with our domestic resources. Begum Zia said sufficient relief materials is being provided to the people of these districts. She added we do not want to declare these areas as calamity areas, because we do not want to allow anyone to take advantage of the sufferings and miseries of the people.

Zia Says 'No Plan' for State of Emergency

BK2510081495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Oct 25 (AFP) — Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has rejected suggestions that her government proclaim a state of emergency in the face of a mounting opposition campaign to unseat her, a local daily reported Tuesday [24 October].

"I have no plan to proclaim a state of emergency. I have not heard anybody proposing" such a move, she was quoted by the Bhorer Kagoj daily as telling New York-based Bangladeshi reporters Monday.

The Bhorer Kagoj daily, whose editor accompanied the premier to the United States, said Zia reiterated that the solution to the standoff must be in line with the constitution.

"The door is still open for talks (and) that is why I will send letters to them (opposition)," she said.

However, Zia added that if the opposition were to take up her offer to resign 30 days ahead of polls, a goodwill offer to ease the tension, then the head of the interim government would have to be headed by an MP from her ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Zia has said opposition demands for her resignation and for elections under a neutral interim administration is unconstitutional, but has offered to stand down 30 days ahead of the next elections, scheduled for early 1996.

Zia, now in New York, is expected to return home Wednesday after participating in the United Nations 50th-anniversary celebrations.

The prime minister's comments coincided with remarks by BNP's vice president and sacked information minister, Nazmul Huda, who has repeatedly told the press that a state of emergency was a possibility.

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"A state of emergency will be justified if the situation turns out to be tense by intensifying internal disturbance in the name of (opposition's) strike ... leading to the breakdown of the economic life of the nation," he told the private United News of Bangladesh news agency published Tuesday.

The opposition has announced a week-long dawn-to-dusk general strike from November 11, but has struck off November 17 because Friday is a holiday in predominantly Moslem Bangladesh, when faithfuls attend mass prayers.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, the Jatiya Party of jailed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party have been campaigning to oust Zia for the past 18 months, alleging free polls are impossible under her government.

India

Minister on Countering U.S. Arms to Pakistan

Says Increase of Defense 'Inevitable'

BK2510163595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today declared that it will take measures to counter the adverse effect of the proposed transfer of U.S. arms to Pakistan. Expressing disappointment at yesterday's endorsement of the Brown Amendment facilitating arms supply by a joint committee of the U.S. Congress, the external affairs minister said additional expenditure on defense by India has now become inevitable.

Talking to newsmen in Calcutta, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said the serious concern and the strong reaction of political parties and public opinion in India have not been considered by the U.S. Administration while waiving the provisions of the Pressler Amendment for resumption of military equipment to Islamabad. He pointed out that all such supplies in the past had been used against India. Pakistan has also clandestinely acquired nuclear weapons technology and ballistic missile from third countries. Therefore, the U.S. transfer of arms will hamper peace, security and civility in South Asia, Mr. Mukherjee added.

Referring to Bangladeshi prime minister, Mrs. Khaleda Zia's statement in the UN, attacking India on sharing of Ganges water, Mr. Mukherjee said India is always in favor of bilateral solution to the problem. He disclosed that the Joint River Commission will soon begin its work to resolve the issue.

The former external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has urged the prime minister to immediately convene a meeting of leaders of various parties in parliament to consider the implications of the U.S. congressional approval for supplying sophisticated arms to Pakistan. In a statement in New Delhi today, he demanded an assurance from the government that it will take expeditious steps to meet the challenge.

Says Arms Enhance 'Threat Perception'

BK2610061795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said that the endorsement of the Brown Amendment by the U.S. Congress to transfer military aid to Pakistan will greatly enhance India's threat perception. This will hinder peace, security, and stability in South Asia. Speaking to newsmen in Calcutta yesterday, he said New Delhi would have to take all necessary measures to counter it. This will mean a substantial increase in our defense budget by diverting additional resources. He stated that the U.S. Congress by its action has enabled transfer of military equipment to a country which is in the forefront of financing, training, and directing international terrorism through drug trafficking in South Asia. Mr. Mukherjee pointed out that advance military equipment has always been used by Pakistan against India in the past. He said that serious concern of India and the strong reaction of its political and public opinion have not been considered by the U.S. Congress while waiving the provisions of the Pressler Amendment.

The external affairs minister, however, said New Delhi continues to attach importance to improving India-U.S. relations.

U.S. Arms Said To Give Pakistan 'Sharper Edge'

BK2610065495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Oct 95

[Commentary by M.L. Kotru]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment enabling Pakistan to receive the stalled $368 million U.S. arms aid may by itself not amount to much in terms of a military hardware, which will thus be available to Pakistan's military machine soon, but it definitely sent a crossed signal to India and the countries in the region about U.S. intentions. The signal briefly read means that the Clinton Administration is not really bothered if the move triggers a renewed arms race in the region. Those who have sanity in the U.S. Congress have repeatedly highlighted the fact that the Hank Brown amendment seeking a one- time waiver of the Pressler Amendment would destabilize the military balance in the region.

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The Congressmen had argued that there was no valid reason to waive the ban imposed on U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan by former President George Bush since Islamabad had made no attempt to hide its nuclear intentions. The Clinton Administration nevertheless lent its full support to the Brown Amendment and finally managed to get the Congressional nod.

For a beleaguered Benazir Bhutto, the passage of the amendment is apparently a foreign policy plus, one which she will definitely count on in the days to come, if only to silence the critics at home. But then, she can turn back on the domestic critics and argue that the $368 million bounty means three PC Orion aircraft for naval patrolling and any number of Harpoon missiles. The Navy will get a whopping $191 million share of the bounty at the throwaway prices at which such equipment is supplied in the form of aid. This can mean a substantial augmentation of its capability. The Air Force gets another $100 million in the form of spares and some other sundries. But all of it put together gives Pakistan a sharper edge, one that India can ill-afford to ignore.

For her part, India has repeatedly warned the U.S. Administration against resuming military aid to Pakistan and would it forget that Pakistani arsenals are still loaded with arms and equipment, which the Americans supplied through various sources to Islamabad during the decade of eighties ostensibly to check the former Soviet advance in Afghanistan. How ironic that some of the same equipment should now be made available to the Taleban guerrillas by Islamabad to dislodge the legitimately established government in Kabul. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has used every opportunity to warn the U.S. Administration about the deleterious effects of resumption of U.S. military aid in any form. The Clinton administration cannot be unaware of the fact that while India's budgetary allocation for defense has dropped substantially, Pakistan's has only moved upwards. The U.S. move in these circumstances can only force India to divert funds to beef up the country's security. The latest U.S. move will to be sure only trigger an arms race in the region, no matter what the apologists have to say.

U.S. Policy Said Fomenting Regional Instability

BK2110133995 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Oct 95 p 12

[Article by Harold A. Gould: "The Brown Amendment Back to the Past"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As most informed Indians are now aware, America's South Asian policy, through the adoption of the Brown Amendment, has sadly reverted back to the old obsessions that consumed it throughout the Cold War. In the name of anti-Communism, a succession of administrations showered Pakistan with weapons that inevitably were used against, or to threaten, India. A policy that was supposed to maintain "stability" in South Asia and deter Soviet-Chinese penetration had the opposite effect. By encouraging Pakistani intransigence towards developing peaceful bilateral solutions to Indo-Pakistani differences, U.S. policy helped foment the very regional instability it sought to prevent. By enhancing Pakistani military power, U.S. policy drove India, as it searched for compensatory weaponry, into a relationship with the Soviet Union which facilitated the very kind of Soviet "penetration" that the United States (albeit exaggeratedly) feared.

By foolishly intruding itself into the post-Independence manifestation of the "separatist movement" (because that is what explains Pakistan's intraregional compulsions), America condemned relations between herself and India to unnecessarily debilitating stresses and strains that have haunted all of the attempts that have been made over subsequent years at reconciliation, mutual respect and constructive collaboration.

Nuclear Edge

Now the United States has done it again. And this time, its leaders don't even have the Communist bugaboo as their excuse. Pakistan will receive new weapons infusions and India will counter them. The arms race will resume, this time with a nuclear edge to it.

The question is why, when going this route makes no strategic sense whatsoever?

The answer, I feel, is three-fold. First, it reveals that the Cold War culture has survived the Cold War. Two generations of American politicians and scholars were so conditioned to think in "containment" and confrontational terms about international security that they continue to do so long after the need to do so is relevant. Second, and related to the first, a vast American defence industry, and the politicians whose constituencies continue to derive economic benefits from its production lines, have a vested interest in perpetuating the Cold War-style of doing international business. Third, the Clinton administration is in some ways more naive about South Asia than were most of its predecessors partially because Mr Clinton himself seems to be so unattuned to the international dimensions of politics and partly because, as far as India is concerned, the advice he gets comes heavily from an assistant secretary of state for South Asia who is (a) pro-Pakistani and (b) out of her depth.

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Tactical Use

All of these factors entered into the orchestrated overthrow of the Pressler Amendment — for, make no mistake this "one-time" exemption for Pakistan is the prelude to gutting the Pressler Amendment for good. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings were a study in the tactical use of scholarly "expertise" — not a single expert who disagreed with the policy was invited to testify.

On the Senate floor, the testimony of this one-sided collection of "experts" was cited by Senate supporters to provide an intellectual gloss on their determined drive to restore arms shipments to Pakistan (the darling of Lockheed Marietta) and a brush off objections by those Senators (Mr John Glenn of Ohio, Mr Paul Simon of Illinois, Mr John Kerry of Nebraska, Mr Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Ms Diane Feinstein of California) who do have an informed and enlightened understanding of what it takes to keep the peace and avoid nuclear destruction in South Asia.

Certainly, in the face of this U.S. backsliding, India must re-examine her regional options as indeed she has declared she will. Mrs Gandhi once complained that one reason why American leaders pursue at times such rash and ill-advised policies is because they suffer from what she believed to be an American characteristic of inadequate patience. The aftermath of the Brown Amendment may prove to be a test of Indian patience in the face of another dose of American impetuosity!

Chavan Denies Accusation of U.S. Training ISI

BK2610062095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister has denied that he accused the United States of training Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] agency to carry out subversive activities in the neighboring countries and providing logistic support to them. Talking to newsmen in Aurangabad, Mr. S.B. Chavan said his Address to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police jawans [soldiers] and officers in New Delhi on Tuesday [24 October] was misquoted.

TV Carries Rao's Address to UN Special Session

BK2510162395 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1520 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to special session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 25 October — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished colleagues. Half a century ago today, world leaders gathered together to create an institution of the peoples of the world to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. That was a momentous event in human history. Today, in commemorating the event, we look back and find that the UN successes have been many. Critics tend to concentrate upon failures, but on an objective appraisal, the UN remains humankind's beacon of hope. The combined UN family has made commendable efforts for the overall well-being of the mankind.

If the relevance of the United Nations is to continue, we will now need to address the root causes of what afflicts human kind. Looking into the causes even casually, nuclear weapons still loom large nowhere near abolition; poverty and under-development are pervasive in many continents; international terrorism haunts the innocent; harmony in pluralistic societies, whose number is the largest, is being disrupted by increasing fundamentalist trends based on exclusivism and intolerance, in many cases hatred.

Mr. President, for several decades the spill of the Cold War gripped the global community almost completely. The Cold War brought a dual approach to every department of human life — politics, economics, war, peace, societal questions, art, literature, everything. The public and the private, the individual and the collective, the orthodox and the liberals, the status quo and the pro-change, all these dualities had to be resolved not in theory, but in reality to bring happiness to man and also to suit individual conditions. While no system can work without a philosophical underpinning, the present juncture provides new opportunities to address problems without the morbid preoccupations of the earlier confrontation. Mr. President, the task of statesmanship has always been to sift the [word indistinct] from the assimilate. Emphasis on commonality is, therefore, of the essence in the world of tomorrow, which paradoxically tends to shrink in physical distance, but threatens to fall apart in many other respects every moment.

There can be no security for anyone in a world bristling with nuclear weapons. Deterrence is a false belief. I would make a fervent appeal to this august body to take credible steps for the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a stipulated timeframe. India's action plan presented in 1988 in this behalf could serve as an appropriate starting point. India looks upon it essentially as a proposal inspired by Gandhian principles and is fully committed to it.

The world's great danger today is the spread of terrorism. When sponsored and supported by states, terrorism becomes another means of waging war. The international community must, therefore, resolve to combat

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this menace, since it threatens the very basis of peaceful societies.

The realities today are trans-ideological. The crying need of a vast majority of nations is all round development. This has to be priority one for the long time. We need a vision of global harmony and cooperation transcending many atavistic tendencies; and, here, Mr. President, the message of Mahatama Gandhi, the apostle of peace and nonviolence, could lead the world to a safe haven in the coming millenium.

Mr. President, the United Nations today includes a much larger number of independent sovereign states then when it began. In such a context, the UN cannot afford to be seen as either exclusivist or incomplete, either in appearance or in outlook. In particular, adequate presence of developing countries is needed on the Security Council on the basis of objective criteria. Nations of the world must feel that their stakes in global peace and prosperity are factored into the UN's decision-making. At this 50th anniversary of the UN, we thus have the task of making the United Nations truly and effectively a global repository of human kind's aspirations. Right thinking nations and peoples working together have in the past achieved miracles. I am confident that they can do so again. India will be proud and happy to be part of such an endeavor.

Mr. President, I have deliberately kept the bilateral matters out of this short intervention. Thank you. [applause]

Thackeray's Son Interviewed on Political Ambitions

95ASO476B Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 26 Aug 95 pp 1, 9

[Interview with Udhav Thackeray, son of Shiv Sena Leader Bal Thackeray, by Bimal Mishra; place and date not given: "Now I'm Not Even in Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mishra] Please tell us something about you. Your childhood, teenage years and youth. How were you brought up?

[Thackeray] My childhood was spent in Shivaji park. We were a large family. The time passed in fun and games. It was an average middle class family life. Then we moved to Bandra. My nature; what can I tell you, what you see is what you get! Yes, I have a memory of childh[illegible] was very close to my mother. Wherever she went I was there, just like her shadow.

[Mishra] In the beginning you were saying that you would not go in for politics, but would take care of the family business. Then abruptly why did you change your decision?

[Thackeray] Not abruptly. If you take a look at our lives you will notice a difference. There is no abrupt change in our lives, slowly it has come about. I have been accustomed to having many people in my house at all times since I was a child. The public would come, they would meet (my) father, I was busy with games just like other children. I had no active interest in the politics, and I maintain it even now, but I had the knowledge. My grandfather was a social worker, (my) father pushed his work even further. What I mean is...in spite of my dislike for politics-I knew many things-after all I have been brought up here. Slowly we started (Printing) **SAMNA**. Shiv Sainiks (Members of Shivsena) and other members of the public came to us with news items and their complaints as well as other local problems. From these matters the conversation started. Slowly these matters overwhelmed me and I don't even know when and how I came into this (Politics).

[Mishra] Now that you are already in it, how do you feel about the decision? Will you make this into a career?

[Thackeray] Right now, I am more interested in the organization than in politics. Whatever power that I have, comes from the support from Shivsena. I want to strengthen it. I want to make sure that the lethargy that comes from being in power, does not encapsulate us (in Shivsena). Power is not our goal.

[Mishra] If that is not the goal, then what is it? These posters and hordings of 'Only one goal' what were they?

[Thackeray] Power is not the goal, it is a medium for the goal. Do you know how Shivsena began? Shivsena is a social organization whose main goal is to serve (the people). 80 percent service and 20 percent politics.

[Mishra] That may have been sometime back. after coming to power, are not those percentages turned upside down?

[Thackeray] Yes that is possible. However, even now, politics is mainly for social service only. Show me, whoever does only social service. Let me tell you something about intentions. We got our first taste of power in 1986. Our party came to power in Bombay Municipal Corporation. We were very happy that we could show them by accomplishing some things that we could not do till then. All our intentions came to nothing when we got a commissioner who came in the middle of all our work. May be he was given to us. You want to do this, it cannot be done. You cannot do that. Since then I had the idea that we cannot accomplish anything unless we have the control of the whole state. That means the government can also be a medium through which we can serve the people.

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[Mishra] However, what kind of service to the people is this? Right after Shivsena came to power did not Shivsainiks act like gangs? Shivsena leaders are being accused of using influence for admissions to the colleges, taking bribe for operating business even for climbing on to a bus.

[Thackeray] Show me one example, we will take legal steps. (after a while) look, admission to school etc. are things where one cannot get anything done without paying some one. If a Shivsainik takes the money to give to some one, people would think he is taking the money. But we would call a wrong by its name. I tell you, if a Shivsainik asks for money from you, catch him and hand him over to the police. (Laughing) Now what can I tell you! Some people are such that they give advertisements in the newspapers in my name, they put up my picture and ask for money and people give them funds thinking that it is for me when I don't even know them. People come from all over and get their photographs done with me. If some of them turn out to be convicted, tomorrow you will ask what kind of company Uddhav keeps.

[Mishra] However, it is not without foundation. No matter what you say, Shivsena is contributing to the criminalization of politics. To free Mr. Dinkar Kandarkar who was arrested under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act [TADA], and to malign the police officer who had arrested him, Mr. Balasaheb (Thackeray) himself gave him blessings-what is this?

[Thackeray] (Upset) What is the proof of Kandarkar's guilt? He had some guns that's all. He should have been prosecuted under the gun law. Right away they applied TADA to him. Poor man, his only guilt was that he did not trust the police for his own safety, and kept some weapons for himself. Look, Power is power. I cannot assure you that power will not blind us. a man is a man, he is likely to make mistakes. Show me, where is no corruption? Is (President) Clinton's party untouched? (By corruption). But it is wrong and we wish it (Corruption) to be extinguished. Our party will try to remove it with all our might. It is one of the main planks of our party.

[Mishra] What is different about the new student of politics of six years ago and today's politically centrist Uddhav?

[Thackeray] at that time I was a little shy, I still am a little bit. I did not know what should and what should not be done. Now I have to address meetings, gatherings etc. I have to make some changes. Now I have to lookout for what is good for everybody, I have to think of them as mine. You asked me about my nature, it has not changed very much. My basic nature is at times not that of a politician at all.

[Mishra] at present what do you do in Shivsena? Do you hold any position in the party?

[Thackeray] I hold no position in the party. Whatever responsibility they give me I try to manage it well.

[Mishra] No matter what you say, the public has begun calling you 'Super Chief Minister'. The Chief Minister and the senior ministers ask for your advice, Junior ministers ask for your guidance and they have to accept your orders.

[Thackeray] Should I consider this your appreciation or curse! (after a delay) If the public believes this I'll thank them for their good wishes.

[Mishra] You are also called 'mini remote control'

[Thackeray] People can say what they like. They call Bala Saheb, Mr. Remote Control. They can say that, what difference does that make? The present government has been elected because of Bala Saheb (Mr. Bal Thackeray:). Could he not have been the chief minister if he wanted to? But no, he made some one else the Chief Minister. Bala Saheb did not become the chief minister but it is his duty to see to it that the public that has elected this government while trusting him, is taken care of. What is wrong in being the remote control if the public is served? Today who does not have the remote control? Is not the Congress High command a remote control for Congress? Remote control from Bala Saheb is a thousand times better than that. So people call me mini remote control. I do not get flattered by it.

[Mishra] Who will get the legacy after Bala Saheb? You or Raj Thackeray? The difference of opinion between the two of you and the news about the split between yourself and Raj Thackeray in the newspapers, gives one the feeling that not everything seems to be alright.

[Thackeray] Yes, we have two different groups. However Uddhav's group is in favor of Raj, and Raj's group is in favour of Uddhav. (Smiling) It is completely useless talk. Those who are describing the differences between the two of us are either fools or they are conspiring to breakup the Shivsena. The public is also comparing our reactions. Since we are two different individuals, (We are likely to be different) they use their imagination. Now, how are we going to change our nature?

[Mishra] What matters do you handle and what does Raj? How do you divide the responsibilities?

[Thackeray] Whatever I can do, I do it. What Raj can do he takes care of it. There is no division of work.

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[Mishra] (It seems) The office of **SAMNA** is replacing the Shivsena Bhavan. What kind of matters people bring to you?

[Thackeray] I go to Shivsena Bhavan three times a week. There, thousands of people talk about their problems to each other. Poor people and people who are caught up in some catastrophic problem come there. Some also come with stories of police brutality. Some people come with personal problems. I have no interest in family quarrels. and no one dares to bring up any wrong (Corrupt) thing.

[Mishra] What satisfies you most?

[Thackeray] When some one's work gets done.

[Mishra] How good is the kind of journalism that **SAMNA** is doing under your leadership?

[Thackeray] There are some things that I do not like. I am trying to pay full attention to it.

[Mishra] The generation gap within Shivsena is growing due to the rise of the new generation. Some people in the old guard look at you with suspicious looks.

[Thackeray] Those who are in the ministry today had not even dreamt back in 1966, when the Shivsena was started, that they would be ministers some day. They did not come into the party for that. They came mainly to serve the society. It has been a slow progression. You are talking about the differences between the old and the new. Now tell me who is in the ministry today? Who is new?

[Mishra] are you happy with the job that the government has been doing till now?

[Thackeray] Completely. Since they have arrived for the first time, it will take some time before it becomes a habit. However, I am happy with our legislators. Ministers also have matured faster than expected.

[Mishra] after Ayodhya, is Kashi-Mathura on your agenda?

[Thackeray] Not at present. However, our basic role is very clear. any temple must stay where it is. This is the reason for our existence. We shall not give it up for political gain.

[Mishra] Many north Indians voted for the Shivsena in the last elections. Still why is it that your government and party has avoided giving any position of power to any north Indians? Why such avoidance of a third of the population of Bombay?

[Thackeray] It is a very good question that you have asked me. I wish that the north Indians would come with us. Their contribution is not less than any other community in the development of Bombay. Looking at their troubles, Shivsena wants to help them. But they have to come to Shivsena. They come to us only during the Ram Lila time. During the rest of the year they do not keep any contact. Please convey my appeal to them through NAVBHARAT TIMES.

[Mishra] What will you tell to Muslims who have been subject to incidences of harrassment?

[Thackeray] Show me one case. a lot of useless chatter is being raised for no substance. Muslims are also our brothers. But I'll say one thing, we need Muslims like Abdul Hamid and not persons like Daud Ibrahim.'

[Mishra] Your party has taken a very aggressive stance. Suppose, you are given all the rights. What will you do?

[Thackeray] It is a speculative question, still I'll say some things. In fact my ideas are quite different on this question. When I was a student in J.J. (School of arts) I had visited Shrinagar once. The people there are very friendly and open. Government policies have destroyed the Nandanvan (Childhood place of Krishna). I also saw it from the eyes of a tourist. We kept on eating the fruits and did not take care of the tree. Today we are looking for the solution when Pakistan is taking advantage of the situation. I Wish we had taken care earlier.

[Mishra] Who is your motivator and guide?

[Thackeray] My father. From the time I was a child, I have watched him struggle for the Nation, Hindutva and the Party. I have seen his struggles. I am also helping him because I am his son. He is my ideal.

Iran

Officials, Media Comment on U.S. Embassy Decision

Foreign Ministry Condemns Move

LD2510210995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has condemned the recent decision by the U.S. Congress to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Bayt al-Muqqadas [Jerusalem]. Mahmud Mohammadi described the decision by the U.S. Congress as an example of the joint enmity of the Zionist regime and the United States toward Islam, as well as a violation of the holy and religious sanctities of Muslims.

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Minister: Move 'Totally Unjustified'

LD2610063095 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 26 Oct 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA — Iran strongly condemns the U.S. Senate vote on transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Bayt al-Muqqadas [Jerusalem], said deputy foregin minister for Arab African affairs, Hoseyn Sheykholeslam on Wednesday [25 October].

In an interview with the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES, Sheykholeslam said Iran severely condemns the move and considers it totally unjustified.

The move, he added, is an indication that the Zionist circles are active in protecting the Israel's interests in the U.S.

He further added the Palestinians should realize that U.S. is determined to protect Israeli interests.

"The whole so-caled peace process is a byproduct of presidential elections in the United States," said the deputy minister adding "the United States has proven it is not impartial in its Middle East policies."

Radio Says Move Islamic 'Challenge'

NC2610102895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 26 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As predicted, the action by the U.S. Congress that approved the plan to move the country's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has met extensive reaction from the Islamic world and a wave of protests is pouring into the United States.

Our country's Foreign Ministry has condemned this action and has deemed it evidence of the joint hostility of the United States and the Zionist regime against Islam. The Organization of the Islamic Conference has called on the U.S. Government to revoke this Congressional decision.

The Arab League and many regional countries—even some of the conservative ones—have protested the U.S. legislature's decision on the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; and the wave of such protests continues to seethe.

The issue of Jerusalem directly concerns the more than 1 billion Muslims in the world. This U.S. action, which is a blatant violation of all the international resolutions pertaining to this city and ignores the sensitivities of the Muslims, openly confronts the Islamic world.

From the UN's perspective and in light of current international norms, Jerusalem is an occupied city. Now the United States, which poses as the guardian of the world and the protector of international laws, has displayed its true nature to the world, with its open, proclaimed support for the usurpist Zionist regime.

The decision to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is tantamount to this country's challenge to the Islamic world, which is so blatant that the British Government—one of the United States' closest allies in Europe—has sought to distance itself from this unwise decision by announcing that this action will endanger the so- called peace process in the Middle East. It has declared that it does not intend to embark on a similar action.

In any case, once again this act has proved that contrary to the false hopes of some of the region's compromising countries with regard to the United States, the reality is that there is a joint front of the United States and the usurpist Jerusalem regime, and not a mediating United States. Therefore, the sole path toward the liberation of occupied Muslim territories is the greater unity of the Islamic world and the proliferation of anti-Zionist struggles.

Radio Views Deployment of U.S. F-16's in Bahrain

NC2410084395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Incoming reports indicate that on the basis of an agreement between the United States and Bahrain, the former is to deploy 18 F-16's in Bahrain within the next few days. According to a Pentagon statement, by deploying additional planes in Bahrain, the United States intends to compensate for the weakness perceived by the withdrawal of the aircraft carrier "Independence". This warship, which carries 75 fighter jets, ended its mission in the Persian Gulf last week. A new warship—the "Nimitz"—is to leave for the Persian Gulf by Dey [month beginning 22 December] to replace the "Independence".

The United States, which is trying to have a continuous presence in the Persian Gulf, is not even prepared to accept a temporary vacuum of part of its forces in the region. Thus, it intends to fill the temporary vacuum left by the "Independence" by deploying warplanes in Bahrain. And this is at a time when the United States has military forces in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It has deployed about 200 warplanes in these two countries.

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The deployment of the U.S. warplanes in Bahrain is reportedly temporary and once the "Nimitz" arrives in the area, these planes will return to the United States. Nevertheless, one cannot be confident that they will return. Once these planes are deployed and when everything returns to normal, the United States—which is continuously seeking a military presence in the Persian Gulf—will probably think about their permanent presence. The Bahraini officials too, who were worried about Bahraini public opinion and negative reaction by regional countries after accepting this arrangement, will not have a great problem once things return to normal.

But what is interesting as far as the deployment of foreign military forces in the region is concerned is the contrarieties that the presence of these forces in the region, and especially in the host countries, creates. By propounding hypothetical threats, the United States is portraying itself as the power which intends to confront these threats. And the countries that host the U.S. forces too—under great pressures from the United States—finally accept this justification and consider the deployment of foreign forces on their territory to be a preventive measure against imaginary threats.

In view of the ill consequences of the presence of foreign forces in the region, the coming of these forces not only does not help establish security and stability in the region but threatens both security and stability. The deployment of these forces in the countries that accept them creates social frictions on the one hand, and by questioning the independence of the leaders of these countries on the other, sparks differences with statesmen— differences which, in turn threaten the domestic stability and security of these countries. Moreover, with the involvement of foreign powers in the region, the possibility for understanding to be achieved among the regional countries decreases, and when a friction or dispute arises, the path toward a solution and agreement becomes longer and the possibility of an intensification of friction increases.

Naturally, in each region the regional countries can achieve an agreement within the framework of the close interests that they share. But with the presence of foreign powers and an increase in the number of decision-making circles on how to solve disputes, the possibility of achieving an agreement becomes more difficult, especially when foreign powers want to ensure their own interests rather than the interests of the regional countries.

Thus, political experts believe that instead of ensuring regional peace and stability as the United States claims, and instead of ensuring the interests of the regional countries, the deployment of U.S. forces in Bahrain and in other Persian Gulf countries, first and foremost, serves the interests of the foreign powers—especially the United States.

Irish Ambassador: Will Not Follow U.S. Embargo

LD2610092895 Tehran IRNA in English 0644 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA — The Irish ambassador to Tehran, Anthony Edward Manix, welcomed the upcoming visit to Ireland of Iranian Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri saying it will be a positive step towards strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries.

The ambassador, in an interview with the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed on Thursday [26 October], added the Majles speaker will meet with parliament speaker, president and prime minister, head of the parliament foreign affairs commission and a number of ministers of Ireland during his official visit to the country from October 31 to November 3. Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri is also due to meet representatives of the opposition party.

Turning to parliamentary relations between the two countries, Manix said it is gaining strength steadily.

The recent visit to Iran of the head of the foreign policy commission, Alan Dukes, was aimed at strengthening inter- parliamentary relations, said the ambassador.

Manix also said that trade relations between the two countries began long ago and are improving day by day.

On Ireland's stance towards the unilateral U.S. trade embargo against Iran, he said as a member of the European Union (EU), Ireland would like to expand its relations with other countries. The ambassador also said that Ireland followed its own path in relations with foreign countries and that the only country which supported this embargo was Israel.

On the Middle East peace process, Manix said, "We should work for peace any where at anytime, the Middle East is no exception."

Foreign Ministry Blames Envoy Attack on 'Zionists'

LD2510213895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Zionist circles' expression of sorrow over the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Iranian charge d'affaires in Argentina, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country underlined the involvement of Zionists in this terrorist act.

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In an interview with the political correspondent of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added: A spokesman of the Jewish Defense League has expressed sorrow over the fact that the diplomat of the Islamic Republic of Iran survived the terrorist assassination attempt against him.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed to our country's quick response calling for the arrest of those involved in this terrorist act and expressed the hope that the terrorists had left some evidence and that they would be arrested soon.

He added: The health of the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Argentina is improving.

Said Tied to Israeli 'Terrorist Acts'

LD2410162395 Tehran IRNA in English
1509 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA — While a Zionist group, Kahane Hay, has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack on life of Iranian diplomat, Gholam 'Ali Rajabi Yazdi in Buenos Aires, the Zionist regime and media claim that Israel was not involved in the terrorist attack. Zionist prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, said in a meeting with President Carlos Menem of Argentina in New York on Monday [23 October] that Israel was not involved in the terrorist action. Spokesman for the Jewish Defence Organization (JDO), David Weiss was qouted by the UPI as saying, "the organization approves the assassination attempt...the only thing we regret is that the Iranian diplomat lived."

Iranian charge d'affaires, Gholam 'Ali Rajabi Yazdi, was shot at point-blank and was critically wounded in the chest.

Observers said there is a similarity between the terrorist attempt on the Iranian diplomat's life and other terrorist operations of Israel and agents of Mosad.

The observers said after the negligence of the public opinion towards baseless charges of the Zionist regime against Iran in bombing the Jewish center in Buenos Aires in 1994, the Zionist regime has embarked on a new ploy to draw attention to its anti-Iran accusations.

Experts of foreign relations said the terrorist attempt was aimed at leading Tehran and Buenos Aires to a strained relations.

They said the despair with Tel Aviv to implicate Iran in bombing incidents in Buenos Aires and inability to deteriorate Iran-Argentine relations have forced the Zionist regime to resort to such terrorist acts.

The Zionist radio said Yitzhaq Rabin has deplored the terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires. The radio said Rabin's remarks were in reference to the terrorist attacks on Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires and the Jewish center in Argentina.

President Menem said after meeting Rabin in New York, "we should wait until completion of the investigation and see whether the terrorist attempt was for political motives."

Two Zionist organizations have so far claimed responsibility for the assassination attempt on Iranian diplomat and described it as a revenge upon Iran.

Immediately after explosion of Jewish center in Buenos Aires, Yitzhaq Rabin accused Iran of involvement in the incident. The zionist regime did not provide any evidence to support its baseless allegation against Iran.

Yemeni Envoy Interested in Nation's 'Experience'

LD2410201395 Tehran IRNA in English
2002 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA — Yemen's ambassador to Tehran, 'Abdallah al-Razi, in his meeting with Iran's labor and social affairs minister, Hoseyn Kamali, here Tuesday [24 October] proposed that Iran and Yemen cooperate in the area of technical and vocational education.

He also said that Yemen was intersted in benefitting from Iran's experience in the areas of employment and immigrants.

The Iranian labor and social affairs minister voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Yemen in those areas.

Kamali finally ended saying, "the Persian Gulf War has resulted in the presence of arrogant forces and that it is painful for the Muslim world to believe that differences between Muslim nations could be resolved through foreign powers".

Official Urges Media Cooperation With PRC, Japan

LD2310171795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting today with the Chinese deputy minister of radio and television, Mr. Larijani, head of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that Iran and China have a great deal of cultural contact, and have had cultural common denominators for a long time.

He added: Our country supports China's political stance against western countries. The diplomatic and economic ties between the two sides in recent years represent evidence of this.

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He said: Our people would like very much to have a great deal of information about China. I hope that, through the expansion of cooperation between the radio and television organizations of the two countries, the way will be paved for the exchange of information.

At a meeting today with Japanese radio and television officials, Mr. Larijani said when referring to the cooperation between the two countries in various fields: At present, there is an agreement on cultural and media cooperation between the Iranian and Japanese radio and Television organizations. We hope that the presence of the Japanese delegation in Iran will strengthen these ties.

Borujerdi, Afghanistan's Dostam Discuss Ties, War

LD2610135795 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA — Iran-Afghanistan cooperation as well as the latest developments in Afghanistan were discussed by deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, and head of the Islamic National Movement of Northern Afghanistan, General Abdulrashid Dostam in Mazar-e Sharif on Wednesday [25 October].

Borujerdi, who arrived in Mazar-e Sharif on Wednesday heading a delegation, called for an end to the clashes and war in Afghanistan.

Borujerdi added that the Islamic Republic of Iran favors a calm and tension free Afghanistan, an atmosphere which would allow the nation to reconstruct their country in peace.

Expressing his content with the prevailing security in northern Afghanistan, Borujerdi expressed hope that security, peace and tranquility will spread throughout the country.

General Dostam, lauded Iran's efforts towards restoration of peace in Afghanistan. He said, "We are interested in sound and solid ties with Iran."

General Dostam added, "We are against war and bloodshed in Afghanistan and we believe that negotiations are the best means of solving problems."

He also expressed hope that peace and stability will return to Afghanistan soon.

Daily Encourages Participation in Majles Elections

NC2110160495 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 10 Oct 95 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Some Points Worth Pondering Regarding the Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A while ago, some publications reported that unofficial electioneering activity had begun behind the scenes in friendly circles in order to select candidates for the Islamic Majles.

It is obvious that with the expiration of the deadline for officials to relinquish their posts if they wish to contest the elections, the electioneering campaign will gain momentum and such discussions will spill into public and general circles.

There are some interesting points worth noting in this regard. The first pertains to the Executive Branch of government and, in principle, those who will conduct the elections. It is natural that the wholesomeness of the elections will be important to the strength, power, and firmness of the future Majles The better the elections are conducted, the more effective the work of the Majles will be .

Hence, officials should ensure in their elections plan that all who wish to participate—as voters or as candidates—encounter no problems. This would enable the people to choose their own favorite candidates and to participate in the elections with greater enthusiasm.

On the other hand, in addition to improving the quality of the Majles, it will increase popular participation and deeply effect the prestige and reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad. It is no secret that the propaganda apparatus of the powers of world arrogance has been assigned to look for any evidence however flimsy and to blow even the most trivial issue out of proportion to world public opinion and use this to harm our system.

Therefore, everyone involved should do their best to ensure healthy elections and to avoid supporting any particular individuals or trends. They should direct their efforts to encouraging greater mass participation, which is of special significance in itself. They should leave the choice and shape of the future Majles to our vigilant and aware people; this is what should and will take place. This is exactly what the president stated at his first meeting with the Cabinet. "The elections should be clean of any attempts to exert influence, as there is no greater goal than the interest and credibility of the system. We cannot consider personal preferences about who should or should not enter the Majles."

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Accordingly, it appears that the executive apparatus intends to guarantee healthy elections in every possible way and with all its might. That is how it should be.

The second issue concerns the candidates and those who eventually decide to run. It is obvious that our dear country Iran is in the throes of a period of reconstruction and needs to recoup the losses and damages which in the course of history have been inflicted on our nation and country. Therefore we need intelligent planners and managers who can pass intelligent laws consistent with the guidance of our great leader and strengthen the course of our revolution.

Therefore all those who consider themselves qualified should participate in this campaign, and if for some reason they are not successful in winning seats in the fifth Majles, they should continue to perform their duties.

All healthy political trends and groups can participate in the elections, and they should not avoid the contest. If, for whatever reason, they perceive any problems they should resolve them legally and join the campaign. The great leader of the revolution (may God be pleased with him) said in his politico-divine testament: "The lack of participation at any time by the people—from the great sources of emulation and scholars down to the bazaar merchants, workers, farmers, and white collar workers, all of whom are responsible for the destiny of the country and Islam, both now and in future generations—and their absence for whatever reason is first and foremost a cardinal sin."

The third point pertains to the alert and aware people of Iran:

It is no secret that in view of the fact that the Majles plays a basic, vital, and key role in promoting the affairs of the country, our enemies are also making meticulous plans and consider the election very important. They will certainly use all possible ways to downplay the event and to discourage people from participating, even though the election of competent and qualified individuals is of the utmost importance and should not be easily ignored.

The enemy will spare no efforts to disenchant the people. It is essential for the people to, first, go to the polls, and second, to vote responsibly according to their judgment. And as they have in the past, they should foil the enemies' plots. Thus, a strong Majles will be elected, thus writing another proud chapter of the Revolution under the aegis of the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Daily Views Absence of Parties in Majles Elections

NC2110160695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Oct 95 p 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarlu'i: "Whither in Such Haste?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Five months remain until the elections. One of the key questions being asked by domestic and international political observers is: What type of political group of the country will be in the upcoming elections?

The country's most prominent political faction that emerged from the third Majles elections did not gain any success in those elections and abandoned political activity as a specific group or faction in the fourth round of Majles elections.

However, due to their political prowess and the great propaganda resources at their disposal, the members of this faction made their presence felt on political issues. Also, despite the relative stagnation in the activity of the satellite groups, the members were comparatively active.

With their experience in the fourth Majles elections, some of them concluded that a presence without a specific platform could possibly ensure greater success.

Some say that the strategy of a presence despite a lack of certainty of success is based on two tactics:

1. To confuse everything, including the election process, to give the impression of disruption.
2. To have a powerful presence to present their perspective and image, and to use this to have maximum utilization of all propaganda opportunities.

During the past month this move has gained momentum. Even within the nameless faction it is often joked: "Whither in Such Haste?"

The first tactic demands that a black picture be presented of the situation. This tactic has even amazed foreign radio!

Last week, Israeli radio announced rather gleefully: In an economic commentary, SALAM newspaper described the Iranian economy as teetering on the edge of the cliff and at an impasse. (footnote: Israeli radio commenting on the article "Forgotten Inflation," dated 2 October, which said: "If we want to reduce the incident that occurred at the end of last spring into one sentence it is: The official declaration of the impasse [is seen] in the policies of adjustment in Iran. Even though experts saw signs of approaching the brink ages ago...the train has now stopped and cannot go ahead or return...")

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BBC radio noted a particular response to a telephone message in SALAM and commented: With regard to the question as to why the factions do not participate in the elections, SALAM wrote: When you cut off the hands or feet of someone, there are those who expect him to throw himself into the water, even at the expense of being killed, but this is not true. (footnote: SALAM, 8 October)

In its haste, the nameless faction has no qualms about saying that the country has reached an impasse and is on the edge of the cliff; that there is no freedom and that everyone's hands and feet are tied!

In conjunction with this tactic, the candidates of the nameless faction convene roundtables at universities and in other circles. They do not miss even the most minor gatherings to intensify their propaganda.

If there were one individual in this nameless faction who could advise them, he would say: The first tactic contradicts the second one and no successful strategy can be based on them. This is because it is natural that the people who go to the ballot boxes would not want to vote for those who denigrate their revolution!

The people have the right to not favor those who are indifferent to the values of the revolution. The people have the right not to consider those who provide grist for the propaganda mills of foreigners as "one of them."

Let us not muddy the waters. All the groups, factions, and individuals who wish to be nominated as candidates should strive to preserve a healthy elections atmosphere.

Would it not be preferable for the scene of the elections to be an arena of rivalry among the fittest? Then the people would have the opportunity to vote for the best.

We would like to give a piece of solicitous advice and say that this strategy will be to your detriment, the least of which would be that after the announcement of the elections results, you would accuse the people of ignorance and the system of discrimination and rigging! If one were to think about this, one would realize that this would be the worst possible outcome.

Official Views Activities of Political Parties

LD2310110795 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA — Under the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, any group is free to organize a political party provided it does not violate any of the laws passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, said a senior political official.

Head of the domestic affairs and councils committee [words indistinct] comment to the morning English-language newspaper, TEHRAN TIMES, and decried the weakness that characterizes domestic political parties lately.

Referring to the questionable record of some political parties and the fact that after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the country witnessed a surge in the formation of others, Savoji said that some of these parties died a natural death because of their communist orientation or because they lacked true adherence to Islamic principles and values and were therefore rejected by the people.

"Their notoriety caused people not to accept them in political affairs and along with this attitude, came the apathy to form other parties," Savoji added.

He called on all sectors and groups comprising the Iranian nation to have an active presence in political affairs much like before.

"Whoever has an idea which can be a step in the nation's climb to progress should help the government in its efforts at reconstruction," he added.

Savoji stated that the end of the Iraqi-imposed war increased the desire of people to organize political parties. "They are perfectly free to do so under the constitution provided they secure the necessary licence," he further added.

Some parties even operate without a license and the government is not after them as long as they do not violate any of is laws, he went on to say.

He urged unpopular parties to review their goals, instead of blaming the laws.

"Their defeat is not because of the constitution. Our people decide which parties can work and which have no standing," the Majles deputy stressed.

He concluded by saying "expectations are high that this time they will manifest the same enthusiasm by going to the polls to cast their votes for the fifth term of the Majles."

Experts Design Instrument To Measure Warship Helm

LD2210185095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time in the country, an instrument for indicating the angle of the helm of warships has been designed and built by the designers and experts of the Center for Research and Self-sufficiency Jihad of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's District-1, in Bandar-e Abbas.

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The instrument is capable of indicating the position of the rudder blade of warships in relation to its vertical axis, precisely and at any point in time.

The head of the Center for Research and Self-sufficiency Jihad of the Navy said in this connection: Taking note of its design, this instrument can be installed near the helm, command bridge, and machine control rooms of warship, logistics, and communications ships. He said the instrument indicating the angle of the helm of warships has no equivalent abroad.

Agriculture Ministry Bans Export of Potatoes

LD2510111395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The export of potatoes is banned until the end of the current year [year ending 20 March 1996]. The Ministry of Agriculture announced that this decision was adopted to help regulate the domestic market.

Minister's Views on 'Overall Independence' Reported

95LA0341C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[Report on interviews with Engineer 'Ali Shekarriz, deputy minister of mines and metals and NIS Co. general manager; Engineer Hoseyn Mahluji, minister of mines and metals; Engineer 'Ali Shekarriz, deputy minister of mines and metals and NIS Co. general manager; Engineer Amir Ahmad Abrandabadi, Navid Alloy Co. general manager; and Engineer Seyyed Mohsen Qoreyshi, MSC sales director, by unidentified correspondent during the visit of Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri to MSC in Esfahan; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esfahan — dispatched correspondent of RESALAT—Resistance against the imperialist powers is tied to overall independence.

Yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the Majles, after visiting the two large steel complexes of Mobarakeh and Esfahan Steel Mill, made this statement in a gathering of steel managers and added: Production of steel at the present is one of the criteria of the growth and development of countries.

Emphasizing the increase in steel production in Iran, he said: The World Steel Commission has projected that by the year 2000, the level of steel production must grow by at least 4-5 percent annually in the entire world.

Stating that "the greatest fight against the United States is the independence of the country in all areas," he added: If we are to stand against the colonialist superpowers of the world, our country must become independent in all aspects, and this is possible when we pay attention to our own forces and talents and in practice engage in work and increasing production.

Eng. Hoseyn Mahluji, the minister of mines and metals, said in the gathering of the steel managers in Esfahan, prior to the speech of Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri: Considering the existing capacities in the country, by spending only $500 million in foreign currency, the capacity of steel production in the country can be increased from 5 million metric tons to 10 million metric tons.

Eng. Mahluji said: By making use of the Qa'em project, in the next two months the steel production capacity of the country will increase by 60,000 metric tons.

He also added: Considering the quality of steel produced in Iran, we were able to export to 23 countries, including Japan and France.

In 1375 [21 March 1996-20 March 1997], Mobarakeh Steel Complex [MSC] Shares To Be Offered on the Stock Market

Eng. 'Ali Shekarriz, the deputy minister of mines and metals and general manager of the National Iranian Steel [NIS] Company, during the visit of the Majles speaker to the MSC, said in an interview with our correspondent: At the present, the phases of evaluation and determining the price of the shares of MSC have begun, and it is anticipated that at the start of 1375, shares will be offered for sale to the general public on the stock market.

Concerning the steel production level of this complex, he said: This year, the level of steel production in the MSC will reach between 1.4 million metric tons and 1.8 million metric tons.

He said: At the present, this complex has the largest direct reduction furnace, which cost $180 million in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] but has now increased to $650 million.

Trial Production of Ferromanganese Begun in Iran for the First Time

Eng. Amir Ahmad Abrandabadi, the general manager of Navid Alloy Company, said in an interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT: For the first time in Iran, 500 metric tons of ferromanganese was produced in Iran on a trial basis.

He added: Soon, the ferromanganese production factory, with an annual capacity of 30,000 metric tons, will reach operation in the country.

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The general manager of Navid Alloy Company pointed out that "annually more than 60,000 metric tons of ferrosilicon is used in the country" and said: Of this amount, prior to 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], about [number missing],000 metric tons of ferrosilicon was imported into the country.

He said: With the operation of the three factories in Iran, Ferrosilicon, Iranian Ferro-Alloy Industries, and Navid Alloy Company, at the present time the ferrosilicon production capacity in the country has increased from 2,000 metric tons annually to more than 50,000 metric tons. This amount will, in the course of the Second Developmental Plan, reach 100,000 metric tons annually, and at the end of the Second Plan the level of ferrosilicon production in the country will meet the consumption needs.

By the End of Next Year, Mobarakeh Steel Will Reach Its Nominal Production Capacity

Eng. Seyyed Mohsen Qoreyshi, the sales director of MSC, said in an interview with our correspondent: In the last three months of 1375, the level of steel production in the MSC will reach the nominal production capacity; that is, 2.4 million metric tons. [sentence as published]

He added: This year, the level of steel production in this complex will reach 1.8 million metric tons, which shows an increase of 400,000 metric tons compared to the previous year.

He mentioned the amount of salable products this year to be 1.4 million metric tons and said: Of this amount, 1.2 million metric tons will be goods in the domestic markets and 200,000 metric tons in the foreign markets.

He mentioned the level of subsidy paid by the government for the sale of each kg of steel at the ratified rate last year to be 230 rials [R] and said: This year, the government will pay at least R370 in subsidies for the sale of every kg of steel to the consumers in the domestic market at the determined rates.

Regarding the projects under way to develop new products in this complex, Eng. Qoreyshi added: At the present, planning for the production of corrosion-resistant steels and SIPH steels that are widely used in automobile manufacturing industries, production of enamel-retention acid-washed steels used for the manufacture of household appliances, the production of magnetic steels used for manufacturing electrical motors, and obtaining a license for isotope 9,000 for the products produced in this complex have been carried out.

Eng. Qoreyshi mentioned the implementation of the project to increase the flexible skeins production capacity by 700,000 metric tons, the project to produce tin-coated sheets with an annual capacity of 145,000 metric tons that is widely used in food and chemical industries, and the production of colored sheets for making pipes and household and office appliances, with an annual capacity of 75,000 metric tons, as among the future programs of the MSC.

English Daily's Ownership Reportedly Transferred

96LA0012A Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 10 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — In a recent meeting of the Supervisory Board of the News Media, the ownership of the TEHRAN TIMES English daily was transferred from the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) to the High Council of Cultural and Islamic Communication Organization.

The High Council of Cultural and Islamic Communication Organization operates under the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and is chaired by Deputy Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Taskhiri.

TEHRAN TIMES started operation after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 as an independent daily. Two years later, it went under the supervision of the IPO.

Paper on 'Checking' of Books Prior to Printing

96LA0012B Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 27 Sep 95 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — The Deputy Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Zarghami, said to the daily KAYHAN in Shahr-e Kord yesterday that from now on, a careful and all-round checking will be done before allowing printing of any book.

Zarghami emphasized the possibility that no books outside the revolutionary and cultural standards of Islamic society would be published.

The plan followed Tehran and Ahvaz MP's objection to the publication of a book, which was then immediately removed. The culture and Islamic guidance minister then went to the Majles Culture and Guidance Committee and called the book's printing "a mistake," KAYHAN reported.

Majles Official Stresses Foreign Investment

96LA0012C Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 27 Sep 95 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — A leading parliamentarian yesterday underscored the importance of private and foreign investment in Iran and said the Islamic

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Republic has taken all necessary measures for guaranteeing the safety of the hard currency coming into the country.

Majles Deputy Javad Larijani said, "necessary measures have been taken to protect private and foreign investment during the course of the ongoing Second Five-Year Plan."

"We, in the legislature, as well as the government welcome foreign and private investment and want increased foreign and private investment," Larijani said.

Larijani was addressing the representatives of German companies, BASF [expansion not given], Hansa Chemie Ag and a group of leading Iranian businessmen at Esteqlal Hotel.

Capital safety and profitability are the two most important factors in attracting investment, and both the legislature and the government have considered this fact in their policy-making decisions, Larijani told the German and Iranian businessmen.

"We are at the threshold of the 21st Century and we want to present Islamic Iran before the world as a prosperous country," Majles Foreign Affairs Commission Deputy Chairman Larijani said.

"Prosperity comes through development projects and not from relying on crude oil," he said, adding, "so we have to use our skills."

A member of the National Security Council, Larijani said, "we believe that the private sector plays a crucial role in the country's development and it should remain active in all areas of industry, trade and economy."

"This is the reason why the role of the government in the economic field has been reduced," he said and pointed out that the govenment's role will gradually change to that of an observer in the economic field.

He said: "The Communist experience proved that government should remain just an observer."

"Iran's geographically strategic location calls for a policy based on the expanded role of the private sector," he said referring to the Persian Gulf and the Central Asian countries around Iran.

"The Majles and the government are happy with the private sector's participation in the country's economy and support them," Larijani said.

Khodayar Alambeigi of Hansa Chemie Ag, Dieter O. Heuer, Manfred Hoffman and Johannes Winkler from BASF were present at the gathering addressed by Larijani.

BASF's world-wide investment is estimated at 36 billion Deutch marks. The company has invested 10 million marks in Iran so far and plans to invest a further 30 million marks.

Foreign Ministry Dean Reportedly Appointed

96LA0012D Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 10 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Gholam'ali Khoshru, Iran's former deputy permanent representative at the United Nations in New York, has been appointed dean of the International College of the Foreign Ministry by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Trade Fair Reportedly To Be Held in South Africa

96LA0012E Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 7 Oct 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran (IRNA) — Iran is to set up an exclusive trade fair in South Africa this winter, to put its products on display in an effort to expand non-oil exports.

Relations have steadily grown between Iran and South Africa following the end of the Apartheid system. This year South Africa is participating in the 21st Tehran International Trade Fair for the first time ever.

Iran's export promotion center has called for all production and commercial companies to actively take part in the planned fair in South Africa.

South African markets hold bright prospects for Iranian exports.

Pakistan

Official Claims U.S. Behind Activities of UN

BK2510104895 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 25 Oct 95 p 12

[Article by Syed Bukhar Shah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PESHAWR — The Jamaat-i Islami [JI] amir, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Tuesday [24 October] said the United States was dreaming to rule the world singlehandedly after the disintegration of the USSR using the United Nations for the purposes.

After the fall of communism, Islam is the only threat to the U.S., he said, adding that was why Muslims throughout the world were being crushed from the United Nations platform.

He was addressing a seminar organised by the Milli Yakjehti Council (MYC) [National Solidarity Council]

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here on the 50th anniversary of the UN. The seminar was largely attended by workers and leaders of various religio-political parties and was addressed by leaders of the JI, JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema], TNFJ [Tehrik-Nifaz-i-Fiqam-Jafria], JUI(S), Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, Jamlat Ulema-i- Pakistan and others.

Terming the UN a stooge of the U.S., Qazi said the world body had launched a war against the Muslims the world over terming them terrorists. Expressing concern at the genocide of Muslims in Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia, Chechnya and Afghanistan, he said the UN had always adopted silence on such issues, but got active against the Muslims.

Later the MYC leaders and activists took out a procession, protesting against the anti-Islam role of the United Nations. The procession was led by Qazi Hussain. Ahmad Fazlullah Obadullah Chitrali and others.

The processionists, carrying placards inscribed with slogans against the U.S. and the UN marched through various bazaars.

FP [Frontier Post] Bureau adds: Thousands of slogan-chanting processionists in Rawalpindi marched upto the UN Military Observes Group and handed over a protest memorandum of the MYC condemning the world body for its "anti-Muslim" policies.

The procession, emerging from Committee Chowk, was led by general secretary of the MYC Mauhana Samul Haq and other leaders of the component parties.

Earlier, addressing the participants, Samul Haq said the UN was celebrating the systematic genocide of Muslims. But the most shameful is the participation of certain Muslim leaders in the UN celebrations.

He said the UN had become a satanic institution whose sole slim was to crush Muslims the world over.

Sami said Muslims were proud to be fundamentalists, and asked all Muslim states to withdraw their UN membership and form a Muslim nations organization.

Allarma Murid Abbas Yazdani of the Sipah-i-Muhammad warned against recognition of Israel and criticised the PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming visit to Pakistan. He said his party would never allow 'Arafat to land on any airport of the country as his visit tantamounted to recognition of Israel.

In Quetta also, the MYC organised a seminar which was addressed by Mufti Ghulam Muhammad Qadari (JUP) [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan], Allama Syed Naqvi (TJP) [Tehrik-i-Jafria-i-Pakistan], Maulana Abdul Haq Baloch (JI) and Maulana Hamaz Badani JUI(S).

The-speakers condemned the role of United Nations and accused that this international forum was serving the American interests.

They said that United Nations enforced only those resolutions which secured the U.S. vested interest otherwise all other resolution which related to Muslim world were always ignored by UN because it did not want to displease Israel and India.

Bhutto Returns From 3-Nation Trip

BK2610060295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad this morning after a highly rewarding visit to Cartagena, United Nations, and Paris. The prime minister was received at the airport by Federal Ministers Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, and Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar; Senior Punjab Minister Mr. Mushtaq Awan, and senior officials.

In Colombia, the prime minister represented Pakistan at the three-day 11th Nonaligned Movement Summit. While in New York, she addressed the General Assembly at the commemorative ceremony celebrating 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. She also held meetings with the world leaders in Cartagena and forcefully projected Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir, besides discussing bilateral and regional matters, including Bosnia.

On her way back, the prime minister made a brief stopover at Paris during which she held wide-ranging discussions with the president of France and her French counterpart on promoting bilateral cooperation in economic, commercial, and defense fields.

Foreign Office Statement Urges Afghanistan Solution

BK2410152195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has reiterated its policy of strict neutrality and noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan because it believes that its people will themselves solve the problem. A Foreign Office statement in Islamabad today expressed concern at the continuing volatile situation in Afghanistan and said the internal struggle for power has led to the continuation of the civil war and loss of life and property. Pakistan is ready to help in any way possible for the achievement of durable peace in that country. The recent successes of Taleban have been without much resistance and primarily due to the Kabul regime's refusal to agree on a power-sharing formula with other groups.

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The statement added that under the Islamabad Accord, Professor Rabbani's tenure had ended on 29 June last year. At one pretext or the other, however, he is continuing to hold power. The statement said that Pakistan agrees with the UN envoy that the main problem for peace in Afghanistan is Kabul regime's refusal to share power with other factions and groups. A durable settlement must be based on immutable demographic realities prevailing in Afghanistan.

Minister Gives Conditions for Talks With Kabul

BK2510050595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has ruled out any talks with Kabul regime until it accepts two conditions. Replying to newsmen's questions in Islamabad last evening, he said the conditions include unconditional apology by the Rabbani regime about the attack on Pakistan's embassy in Kabul and killing of one of its staff members, and payment of compensation for the loss to the building and property.

Minister Urges Resignation of Afghanistan's Rabbani

BK2510130595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali has said that time is running out for Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, and it is in his and Afghan nation's interest to hand over his resignation to UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri.

Answering questions during an interview here Tuesday [24 October], he said the people of Afghanistan will believe Rabbani if he hands down his resignation to the UN emissary before the formation of a Shura otherwise his credibility is very low. "He should agree to Mestiri's March 31st proposal without any more hitches."

To a question about prolongation of the stalemate around Kabul, the Foreign Minister said the matter was in Rabbani's hands and he should show come responsibility to save Kabul from bloodshed and destruction. "The greater he stays as President of the truncated government the greater the threat to Kabul."

Sardar Asif said if Rabbani continues fighting to save his limited power, Afghans will not forgive him and "he will be condemned by history. He should seek accommodation by following the UN proposal which involves handing over of power to a Shura by him."

Asked about the military situation around Kabul, the Foreign Minister said on the ground the opposition has made gains and the forces of Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud suffered losses. Elaborating, he said the Taleban and their allies had not launched a frontal attack on Rabbani forces. "There have been skirmishes, and in fact, the Rabbani forces attacked Chahar Asiab where the Taleban were entrenched, who were able to repulse it that demonstrated their impressive military ability."

Sardar Asif said in Bamyan the Hezbe Wahdat, an ally of the Taleban, had scored successes. The student militia is holding Chahar Asiab. Mas'ud tried to take Sarobi from Golboddin Hekmatyar but was repulsed, he said. "It is absolutely false, and all they are trying to do is to attract the Indian help by accusing Pakistan," he said when asked about the allegation of Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan. "Any neutral person can go to Afghanistan and check up facts regarding supply of arms and ammunition from Pakistan."

He said the Russian and Western arms supplies had not yet exhausted. "Arms worth $30 billion were left behind in Afghanistan."

To a question about the Indian interference in Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister said New Delhi was still sending military experts, technicians and hardware and "they are now responsible for continuation of the civil war. Afghan people will never accept the Indian interference."

Asked about Iran's uneasiness with Pakistan due to the Afghan situation, Sardar Asif said Pakistan hopes Iran will not let its soil to be sued by Afghan refugees for any military operations inside Afghanistan.

"Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto informed the Iranian Foreign Minister when he recently met her in Colombia about the massive Indian interference in Afghanistan. She requested him to work for a peaceful solution of the problem," the Foreign Minister said. "Iran was once again assured that Pakistan strictly believes in the policy of non-Interference and neutrality. Islamabad also hopes that both brotherly countries will work closely with UN and OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] for a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issues."

Asked about any possible role of former Afghan King Zahir Shah in Afghanistan, he said it was for the Afghans to decide, and "as far as we are concerned, we do not think it proper to interfere." The Foreign Minister said Pakistan is deeply concerned at the continuing volatile situation in Afghanistan. "The internal struggle for power among various Afghan groups has led to the continuation of the civil war and caused loss of innocent

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lives and immense damage. We believe the solution must emerge from the Afghans themselves."

He said the Taleban's recent successes were without much resistance and were primarily due to the people's disenchantment with the Kabul junta and its stubborn refusal to agree on any power-sharing formula with the other groups in Afghanistan. "The Kabul junta's intransigence is the main factor in the continuation of the internal conflict."

Sardar Asif said the allegations leveled by the Kabul junta against Pakistan is further evidence of its futile efforts to place the blame on Islamabad for the failure of its ill-conceived policy. "The Afghan people have not further been misled by such notions and are still maintaining a brotherly relationship with Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan agrees with Mostin's speech in Stockholm in June this year that the Kabul government's base had become narrower and could be said to represent only the Tajik ethnic group.

"We agree with his assessment that the main obstacle in the way to peace is the Kabul junta's refusal to share power with the other factions and groups in Afghanistan and that a durable settlement must be based on the immutable demographic realities prevailing in Afghanistan."

Canadian Firm Signs Power Project Contract

BK2610060895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A financial package of $119 million was signed in Islamabad yesterday for the construction of 115-megawatt power complex at Raiwind near Lahore. The project will be set up by Southern Electric Power Company Limited, which is an affiliated company of B.C. Hydro of Canada.

MQM Head, Opposition Leader View Political Issues

BK2010102095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Oct 95 p 1, 5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held a detailed meeting in London with MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Chief, Altaf Hussain, told Ajmal Dehlvi to THE NATION.

Those who accompanied Nawaz Sharif included Shahbaz Sharif, Hamza Sharif, Ishaq Dar and Chaudhry Nisar Ali. From MQM side, M.A. Jalil accompanied Altaf Hussain.

Both the leaders discussed crucial political situation faced by the country during the 2-year of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] rule. They were of the view that the country and specially the city of Karachi had to face a severe jolts. Later, Altaf Hussain and Nawaz Sharif held separate one-hour-long meeting. In a closed door meeting, it is said both the leaders discussed political victimisation by the government. It is also said that continuous killing of the innocent people of the city also came under discussion. They were of the view, the source said government is intentionally creating an atmosphere of 'terror in the city'.

However, it is learnt that Leader of the Opposition, Nawaz Sharif is reaching Pakistan on Friday [20 October] morning.

Official Calls For 'Honest Dialogue' on Kashmir

BK2510162895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Senate chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has stressed the need for an honest dialogue between India and Pakistan to find an amicable solution to the Kashmir issue on the basis of UN resolutions. He was talking to the Indian high commissioner, Mr. Satish Chandra, who called on him in the Parliament House in Islamabad. Mr. Wasim Sajjad said peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute would pave the way for restoring peace and normalcy in the region.

Former ISI Head Denies 'Islamic Revolution Attempt'

BK2210125395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Oct 95 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed "Special Report": "Gen. Nasir Terms Revolution Bid a Childish Exercise"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Former ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] Chief Lt Gen (Retd) [Lieutenant General Retired] Javed Nasir has contradicted the news item about his arrest or undertaking an overseas "preaching tour". He has said that he is very much in Pakistan and is busy in finalising preparation for an on-coming international preaching rally to be held next month.

In a telephonic talk with THE NATION Lt Gen Javed Nasir maintained that he is leading quite a normal life and that he is carrying on his activities pertaining to preaching of Islam as usual.

Commenting on press reports, about an Islamic "revolution attempt" by certain Army officers the former ISI chief viewed if these army officers did intend to bring such a change it might have been a childish exercise. "I do not think that any revolution can be brought

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by adopting such measures or capturing power through such means."

Anyway Pak-Army is an Islamic force and it is well neigh impossible to keep any officer or a jawan [soldier] away from offering prayer, keeping fast and practising Islamic teachings, stressed Gen Nasir.

Replying to a question about Tableeghi Jama'at's belief in jehad Gen Nasir replied that it is a wrong notion that Tanbleeghi Jamma'at does not believe in jehad, however, he added we should not launch a jehad unless we are well-prepared observed Javed Nasir.

Clarifying his point of view Gen Nasir recalled that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made preparations in this regard in a period ranging about 12 to 14 years and by the grace of God he succeeded in the noble attempt of waging jehad.

Asked if his Tableghi Jama'at has finalised preparation for jehad in approximately the same period the general explained that he referred to the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) endeavour to make preparation under those particular circumstances and how long we will take to make it a reality cannot be assessed under present circumstances. Gen Javed Nasir said that Islam is spreading in France having a bright future for Algerians and United States also feels very much perturbed over the blacks embracing Islam.

'Informer' Receives Fine for Part in 'Coup Case'

BK2510110795 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Abdul Sami Paracha]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DARRA ADAM KHEL, Oct 23: A unique tribal jirga of the arms dealers was held here on Monday [23 October] which imposed a fine of Rs300 million on a tribesman who allegedly acted as informer of government agencies in the so-called attempted coup case, and declared that the amount would be distributed among the detained army personnel "as compensation in due course".

Meanwhile, movement of armed forces has increased in this famous gun manufacturing town of the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] since Friday, apparently to capture two accomplices of the detained army men Vaqar Haider and Bilal, who according to confirmed reports have been hiding somewhere in Darra Adam Khel.

On Sept 8 a car (MNO-516) carrying heavy arms, was impounded by the customs intelligence agency in a small town, six miles from Kohat, and his owner, Maqsood, and the chief of Haikaful Ansar (Kashmir), Saifullah Akhtar, were arrested on the spot.

The driver, who was wearing army uniform, reportedly disclosed that he was carrying the arms to Brig Mustansar Billah who had spent two nights at Green Hill Hotel in Kohat after purchasing the weapons in Derra Adam Khel.

There have been unconfirmed reports that a clean-up operation may be launched by the following persistent allegations that arms were being transported to terrorists in Karachi from here.

Earlier, the political administration banned the display of heavy weapons in Darra, but failed to stop the smuggling of heavy arms from Afghanistan or the manufacture of their parts here. Heavy weapons are generally first smuggled from Afghanistan and then transported down country.

Sri Lanka

President Briefs UN on Peace Process, LTTE

BK2610015595 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 26 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga currently attending the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebration in New York, told the international community that they could strengthen the peace process in Sri Lanka, if those abusing the hospitality of host governments and promoting terrorism here were given a clear message to desist.

Addressing the UN Council on Foreign Relations on the theme, "Restoring Peace in Sri Lanka: how the international community can help", President Kumaratunga said that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had operations in many foreign countries.

They had links with drug traffickers, illicit arms dealers and information offices in many foreign countries maintained by the LTTE and were a cover for money laundering and such activities.

Commenting on the current military offensive against the LTTE, the president said it was important to make it clear to the LTTE that force is not a means to resolve difficulties.

The government had not interrupted supplies of food, medicine, and other facilities to the areas in the north, despite the ongoing armed conflict, the president told the council.

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She made clear that what was described as the "Black July" of 1983 was not a racist rampage by the majority Sinhalese against the minority Tamils, but a politically motivated campaign carried out by organised groups of thugs.

"The overwhelming number of people in Sri Lanka from all communities are committed to settle their disputes through peaceful negotiations," she said.

Briefly outlining the developments leading to the current situation, the president said that negotiating peace was not easy and that the government had made every effort to bring all Tamils into the negotiating process by keeping a dialogue open.

Although the vast majority of Tamils as well as other minorities were engaged in peaceful discussion of proposals put forward by the government, the LTTE had chosen to continue its violent campaign.

"The leadership of the LTTE seems paranoid about peace and has obstructed efforts made to establish a dialogue for peace acceptable to all people."

Virtually every government which had commented on the government's peace initiative had expressed support for this effort to achieve peace though negotiations, she said.

"The LTTE has not been responsive to peace efforts and even when observers from Canada, the Netherlands, and Norway had arrived in Sri Lanka to monitor what was considered then an important stage towards a peace settlement, the LTTE had rejected such approaches," she added.

Answering questions the president agreed that major changes had taken place in Sri Lanka since the Peoples' Alliance came to power and that the human rights situation had vastly improved as many governments and NGOs [Nongovernmental Organizations] had already noted.

LTTE Executes 29 Civilians for Passing Information

BK2610014295 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 26 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rebel Tigers [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE] Wednesday [25 October] publicly executed 29 civilians suspected of passing on information to the security forces.

According to travellers arriving at the military controlled northern township of Vavuniya, from the rebel held north, four of the executions were carried out at Omanthai, a few kilometres north of Vavuniya.

They said that the accused had charges read out against them before being executed by a firing squad in front of the public. Among the four killed were a school principal and a grama sevaka (village headman), according to the travellers.

Unconfirmed reports said that the rest had been shot dead in northern Jaffna town after a kangaroo court found them guilty of the charges made against them. They were gunned down after they were paraded in front of the public, reports said.

Defense Minister Calls For Calm Despite Attacks

BK2610024795 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 26 Oct 95

[Report by Richard de Silva — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Acting Defence Minister Col. Anuruddha Ratwatte in a fervent appeal urged the people not to be provoked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] terrorists' attacks on the country's economic targets on one front and killing defenceless men, women and children in villages at the same time on a different front to create a communal backlash from the Sinhalese.

He said, "The people in Colombo and other parts of the south should not fall a prey to this criminal machinations of the terrorists. If the people remain calm the security forces and the government will soon achieve the goal."

He expressed these views when he addressed a large gathering of people who made donations to the National Defence Fund at the Defence Ministry on Wednesday [25 October].

He told the donors "With your contributions you have become partners in this national struggle to liberate the North by eliminating the LTTE to usher in peace for all".

"Our well planned strategy is paying dividends and we will defeat the terrorists on all fronts very soon and the people should give their fullest support by remaining calm."

He observed, "The LTTE is doing all these criminal acts in order to divert the security forces from the Jaffna peninsula to other areas but they are mistaken. We will not stop our attack on the heart of the LTTE power concentration. We are certain of this and whatever the LTTE resort to we will not stop until we liberate the Jaffna peninsula and uphold our sovereignty, independence and national integrity."

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Stressing the importance of people remaining unprovoked in the face of Tiger attacks in the south, Col. Ratwatte said, "We are in the process of definitely defeating the LTTE and liberating the Tamil people of Jaffna and the Tigers have realised it. That is why they want a communal backlash in other parts of the country. All those who want the LTTE eliminated should remain calm and refrain from getting provoked," he added.

Defense Sources Report on 'Operation Riviresa'

BK2610024495 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 26 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces estimate that more than 450 Tigers have been killed and nearly 500 wounded during the army's latest Operation "Riviresa", defence sources in Colombo said.

Troops are consolidating their positions in the newly captured areas, close to Jaffna. The operation continues.

"Terrorists offered no resistance on Tuesday [24 October]. The Tigers cannot afford to sustain such a large number of cadres in so short a time," the sources said.

They said the Tigers have lost their tight grip on the peninsula.

Tigers have not been successful in getting reinforcements from other areas and lack of medical facilities have hampered the treatment of their wounded cadres.

Reports reaching Colombo from the north said Tigers were removing certain military equipment from the Jaffna peninsula as they believe the army will capture the peninsula very soon.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], notorious for sending pre-teenage and teenage youths to the warfront, have been desperately calling for reinforcements and urging parents to hand in their young ones to boost the fighting cadre.

Troops say that they have lost 120 men during the operation, which began nine days ago when thousands of troops backed by air cover, armour and artillery broke out of their Forward Defended Localities (FDLs) in a southward thrust from the Palaly military complex, in the Jaffna peninsula.

Thirty 'Terrorists,' 18 Soldiers Killed

BK2510125995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces in Operation Riviresa successfully foiled an attempt by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists to infiltrate their forward defensive lines. The troops killed an estimated 30 terrorists. They recovered nine bodies of the terrorists. The operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry said that one officer and 17 soldiers were killed during the ensuing confrontation. The battle continued for nearly four hours; 42 soldiers were wounded.

The Air Force has stepped up the pressure on the LTTE by engaging a number of their positions in the northern Neerveli area. Defense sources said that they were pushing ahead and that the Tigers were getting desperate. The operation is continuing.

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